

1936

1936

1936

38090

C0533/466

38090

KENYA

Defence Force
Reorganisation

Previous

1936/10

Subsequent

See 38240/36...

297

22/8

in June

226

See 38240/36

234

in June

240/10

See 38240/36

244

297

2/11

See 38240/36

5/10

See 38240/36

✓

297

4/11

See 38240/36

1

299

5/11

280

5/11

295

1/12

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

✓ Extract from London Press — 9/2/36
Reporting decision to reorganise the
defence.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

7. From Kenya — Tel. The Observer 9/2/36
Notes that no action be taken on
a telegram from Lord Francis Scott
pending receipt of 2 Air Mail
letters, sent 9 March.

Sir C. B. Bottomley

M. Paskin

Mr. Paskin,

There is no trace either in the Telegraph
Section or in the Office Keeper's register of the
receipt within the last few days of a telegram from
Lord Francis Scott. I will, if you wish, ask the
Cable Co. whether they have any record of such a
message but I hesitate to do so since we cannot give
them any of the relevant particulars i.e.
the date and time of despatch from Kenya
the office at which the message was handed in
the form of address
the signature
? we might await the arrival of the letters from
the Gov. to Sir C. Bottomley. It is of course possible
that the tel. has not been despatched but that it will
come to hand during the interval

J. B. Green
10/2/36

We can't give them
these particulars.
So ? wait.

M. Paskin
10/3.

Yes: we can't do much
else. J. B. Green
10.3

3. *Mr. Kenya — Tel 65 — 11/3/56*

*Conveys message of protest from
Lord Hankey Scott against disbandment
of Kenya Defence Force without
consulting unofficial community.*

*Wait the 2 letters from
Sir J. Byrne which showed advice
on the 16th March.*

*C. R. Rossall
11/3/56*

*J. P. ...
11/3.*

I agree that we shall have to wait for the letters before anything definite can be said, but the Secretary of State will want to know what the exact position is.

The position is that the Governor of Kenya has for a long time been dissatisfied with the composition, and especially with the working, of the Defence Force. A conference was held in the Colonial Office at which it was considered that the Defence Force was quite useless as a military unit. The Secretary of State was, however, reluctant to give directions out of the blue for it to be scrapped and we proposed to await the report of the Committee on Arms and Equipment which the Governor had appointed. The Governor sent home the report in September last year and stated that it showed that the Force was in a really bad state. He went on to say that in his opinion there was only one sound policy to be followed, which was to disband the Force and repeal the Ordinance; that in Mombasa

the

the Defence Force unit had ceased to exist and the Ordinance was entirely inoperative; that some effective organisation of the white man-power of the Colony ought to be introduced as soon as possible and that, therefore, the Force ought to be disbanded and a "Security Force" set up.

On the 6th of January he telegraphed to Sir John Maffey saying that Major Cavendish-Bentinck had put down a motion about the Defence Force. We replied on the 8th of January suggesting that the Governor should take the line that the organisation and condition of the Force were not satisfactory, that he was proposing to replace it by something in the nature of a volunteer unit and that he had put forward proposals to that effect.

Then on the 4th of February we telegraphed briefly saying that the Secretary of State agreed with his view that the Force should be disbanded and replaced by a suitable organisation and the despatch of the 5th of February was sent off accordingly. It is necessary to look at what is in that despatch. In it the Secretary of State stated that he had come to the conclusion that in the interest of the general security of Kenya the best, and indeed the only possible, course is to disband the Defence Force and replace it by some more suitable military organisation. He then went on to make various suggestions as to the composition, organisation and maintenance of the Force, but said carefully that these points were put forward as suggestions for consideration and that the first thing to do would be to prepare legislation which

4 Sir Joseph Byrne 8/10

8 March 1936

5 Sir Joseph Byrne 8/10

8 March 1936

no Reports circulated by Lord Francis Scott at
meeting of Executive Council.

(1) Enclosed copies of letters of resignation from
Lord Francis Scott Lord Cavendish Bentinck. Progress
to accept resignation

These two letters from Sir Joseph Byrne do not add really much to our information beyond stating that Lord Francis Scott was very rude to the Governor at the Executive Council meeting and that they knew all about the fact that a reorganisation of the Defence Force was under consideration. This, of course, is quite true and the thing was raised by Major Cavendish Bentinck in September, 1934, as will be seen from the Governor's letter No.12 on 23/11/34. When Major Cavendish Bentinck then called on the Governor he was speaking as the acting leader of the Elected Members of the Council and told the Governor that they were anxious about the Force. It being a defence matter, the correspondence was necessarily secret and the rule about secret despatches is contained in the Colonial Regulations, No.145, which lays down that the Governor is forbidden, without the express authority of the Secretary of State, to communicate secret despatches to any person other than such members of H.M. Service as he considers it essential in the public interest to consult or inform. A strict application of this rule would prevent him consulting

consulting his Executive Council because Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavendish Bentinck are not persons in H.M. Service. At the same time, if he had wanted to, he could easily have asked for permission to consult them and that permission would, of course, have been given.

But there was no necessity really, since it was not proposed to do anything beyond to make public the fact that the Secretary of State had agreed to the reorganisation of the Defence Force and its replacement by a more efficient body, and had put forward certain suggestions to that end, while in accordance with its terms at the Council debate in January, the Kenya Government was about to set up a Committee to consider what was to be done. There was, therefore, nothing to consult anybody about beyond the composition of the Committee.

At the same time Lord Francis Scott and Co. have a kind of debate ^{in point} ~~on point~~, but there is no doubt whatever that the Governor is right when he says that he is not at liberty to convey the contents of secret despatches to Lord Francis Scott unless authorised and further, as the Secretary of State has said in the House of Commons, it is entirely within his own discretion as to whom he consults.

We now have a telegram from Lord Francis Scott sent to the Secretary of State through the Governor, and in accordance with common politeness I think some acknowledgment has to be returned. I had thought of sending a telegram, but I think it would be enough if an air mail despatch is sent as per draft herewith.

The Governor ^{in Kenya} is not bound to appoint any Unofficials to the Executive Council. The instructions of Government simply provide that the Council may include

include such Unofficial persons (if any) as the Governor may appoint, subject to the approval of His Majesty. It has been the practice, of course, to nominate to Executive Council the leaders of the Elected Members in the Legislative Council, but there is no necessity.

J. L. W. Hand

20.3.1936

6. J. A. Cable — 20 March 1936

Express appreciation of reorganisation of the K.S.F.

7. A. de V. Wade Esq — 11 March 1936

Furnishes observations on the Defence Force dispute.

8. Sir Joseph Byrne Esq — 12 March 1936

Is copy of correspondence with Elected Members organisation relating to personnel of proposed committee. Suggests qu of defence force be settled now once & for all & enquires whether members of Vigilance Committee should be regarded as ineligible for ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Council.

Sir Cecil Bottomley.

You asked me to look into the question of the understanding with the European Elected Members as to the unofficial seats on Executive Council. I have had a search made and neither the Registry nor I can find anything more explicit than paragraph 128 on page 78 of Sir Edward Grigg's despatch of the 11th of September 1930. In that despatch he says "the fact that of the three Unofficial European Members, one is by custom invariably the leader of the European Elected Members in the Legislative Council and the other one of the European Elected Members for Nairobi". (See the print in 25494/1930) It appears then that there is nothing in the shape of a formal pledge but there is a definite custom and an understanding going back for years. If I were called upon to give advice as to what the Governor should do, I would advise him not to appoint anybody. There is no reason why he should. If the Elected Members become reasonable again, as they may, then they can be reappointed.

The three new communications do not add very much. No. 6 is, I think, rather mistaken in its form and all that need happen to it is an acknowledgment from the Secretary of State's Private Secretary. No. 7 shows what Mr. Wade, the Colonial Secretary, thinks about it. It looks to me as if the line taken by the Elected Members will be that, as the Secretary of State stated that he had come to the conclusion that the Defence Force ought to be abolished, there is no use in their protesting. However, if the Secretary of State had not come to that conclusion there would have been no point in suggesting

suggesting that it should be abolished and replaced by something else, so the argument does not hold very much water. As Mr. Wade says, they have been invited to consider the Secretary of State's suggestions and if they don't like them, they can give their reasons.

No. 8 is the Governor's version. He is again urging that he should get direct orders from the Secretary of State. That is what I do not like. In particular it is awkward for the Secretary of State to issue orders to a Colonial Government in a matter of this kind which affects all the white population unless he is fairly confident that he will have reasonable support. If it does come to a 'show-down', then the only thing to do is to back the Governor and give him any instructions which will strengthen his hand. But until it does come to extremes I would not give up attempts to get agreement. The Kenya Government is pledged to appoint a Committee and they had better do so.

One can agree with the Governor that the Defence Force, whatever form it takes in future, ought not to be under an unofficial Commandant. That is indeed plain to everybody and was even suggested by Major Cavendish Bentinck in 1934, when he proposed to the Governor that the whole Defence Force, with it is true, its ^{own} Commandant, should be under the O.C. Troops.

The Governor proposes to defer making appointments to Executive Council and, as I have said above, I am sure this is right.

With

bound
With regard to the Vigilance Committee, the position is awkward. It is ~~illegal~~ ^{not} to have such societies in Kenya as elsewhere, but most of the leading Unofficials charged into the Vigilance Society in a burst of enthusiasm (or so I am told) and it would be difficult to find anyone who has not been mixed up with it. In all the circumstances I think the best thing to do is to ignore it.

100/8
With regard to Major Cavendish Bentinck's letter, one can agree with paragraph 2, that in a Colony like Kenya the question of internal security and the safety of women and children is of vital importance and Government will welcome any suggestion that may be brought forward for consideration. The opening sentence of paragraph 3 is absolutely what one would expect. If there is a real international emergency, the one thing of which everyone can be sure is that every single settler in Kenya will place himself unreservedly at the disposal of the Government in whatever capacity he may be most useful. The trouble about the Defence Force is that it is not in real existence and if it were mobilised for a general emergency and kept mobilised, it would have to be turned, in practice, into something quite different before it could render useful service.

The Elected Members leave the personnel of the Committee to the Governor's discretion and, I think, so can ~~we~~, but consideration by a Committee with unofficial representatives there must be.

J. E. W. Hood

25.3.1936

*and I think that suitable
unofficials will be found
ready to co-operate.*

I agree with Mr. Hood. M. H. J. G. J.

is reproduced for last appointment
unofficial E.C. Councilors, I
should like him to say that he
means to give every opportunity
for them previously appointed
to return, but we can leave
that to him.

W.S.
25.3.36.

The draft despatch previously
prepared is still appropriate,
but a reply to no. 8 depends
on whether Mr Flood's views
are accepted. W.S.

W/Boyd

The S. of. will perhaps wish
to discuss?

W.S.
27/3/36

Yes. I think the despatch
might be made shorter.

P.
30.3.36.

In Thomas's opinion the despatch
should be curtailed. He has cut out the
last 15 lines; and he would like to add
a sentence after the word "Should however"
on the line of the resolution in the margin.

Edmond
6/4/36

9
Capt. 28 Guest to Mr. Thomas - 24th March 36
(under 14, letter from Mr. Cavendish Bentinck)

The S. of. has read Capt. Guest's letter and
it is understood he would be glad if the draft
would put up for his consideration, then I will be
an enthusiastic ally.

Edmond
6/4/36

"I had Plymouth has since seen the
proposed alteration in the draft of the draft
as to the advisability of the last sentence, which
might be held to reflect on the Governor, if the
despatch is published. A revision is now suggested
in red ink, but this goes rather far in the
opposite direction - as it states definitely that
in the S. of.'s view the Governor quite rightly
quitted the Exec. Cmt. Perhaps the draft would
reminiscent the fact of the draft schedule."

Edmond
6/4/36

no 38077/1

With regard to the draft despatch to the
Governor, it requires now a little alteration
because we know that he has accepted the resignations
of the two Elected Members. I think the alteration
suggested is perfectly right, but it might be
modified by altering the word "rightly" to
"properly". / Draft herewith.

Major Cavendish-Bentinck's letter to the
Rt.Hon. Captain Guest is a pretty amazing production.
It appears from it, by the way, that the questions
put in Parliament are inspired from Kenya, which of
course we knew, but I never knew that it had gone

If a discussion
between these
Lord Plymouth & M
would like
to be involved

x
how the subsequent meeting

so far as for a Member of the Commons to consult people in Kenya as to the terms of his Question and taking suggestions for Supplementaries. Play can be made with that if required. The whole of the letter is simply vulgar abuse of the Governor, and in my opinion, little importance need be attached to it on that score. We know that the ultra-political element in Kenya does not like and did not like Sir Joseph Byrne, but in my opinion that is due to the fact that Kenya, for the first time in its history, had a Governor. With the exception of Sir Robert Coryndon, who unfortunately died before he had been very long in Kenya, the place has not had a really strong Governor who could take what he considered the right line and follow it. In the case of Sir Joseph Byrne they have got one. I do not like going into personalities, but it is also common knowledge that Major Cavendish-Bentinck, for many reasons, is not a person with whom the Governor could possibly be on friendly terms.

The income tax matter was before my time in the Department, and again it must have been common knowledge that after Lord Moynes' Report some measure of income tax would probably be introduced. The people in Kenya did get annoyed at the heading on the stationery, but I don't think that the objection need be taken too seriously.

In regard to the composition of the Committee, the Governor told us that they had agreed

agreed in Executive Council to the inclusion of Mr. Pandya and then went back on it.

I am afraid that when it comes to allegations of this kind the only thing to do is to trust the Governor and to disbelieve any ^{one} so utterly unimportant as Major Cavendish-Bentinck. There is a real danger that these noisy and unimportant people may get listened to when the others, who are not so valuable, do not get heard. The Governor relies on the Secretary of State to back him if necessary, and I think he should.

I do not think that Captain Guest expects a very long reply and I submit the draft of one.

J. I. O. K. D.

8.4.1936

x ||
The Governor's telegram of 25 Feb (N° 12 on 38090/35) shows that he expected agitation and thought it would be short-lived. His letter of 8 March (N° 4 on this file) shows the same as does the letter of 12 March (N° 8) which has to be amended.

The despatch on 38077 shows that Lord F. Scott must have believed very badly on Council.

The Governor's view is that if he is backed by the S. of B. there will be no reason to expect any long-lived trouble. I agree with him.

J. I. O. F.

x Mr. J. I. O. F., who was in 1937, takes the same view.

I hope the Off. of the Govt. will be accepted and that the touch of what Major Cavendish-Bentinck says will not be approved. Sir J. Moynes has

has held down a very difficult position with great courage and in circumstances which his predecessor (& I hope his successor) did not have to face.

I don't doubt that he has made mistakes at times, but may we blame any one especially with him.

I agree to the wording of the draft despatch.

W.C.S.
8/4/36.

W.C.S.
8/4/36

Mr. Thomas has found down the letter to Capt. Grant. The letter is signed ready for despatch, but Capt. Grant has asked for the envelopes to be returned to him. They should therefore be sent back with Mr. S. B.'s letter; but Capt. should see in case they will have any part of them copied (in C.D.) while they are in our possession.

The draft despatch is attached for use in its revised form.

Ed. Lloyd
9/4/36
above

10 To Capt. Grant. enf. 9.4.36. (9 ansd)
By Air Mail 11. To Kya. enf. (7 on 38077/1/36 ansd. 11/4/36 11/4/36

12. Sir Waldron Smithers. on 10.3.15. 11.4.36
enquires the 16/4/36 Govts. Policy regarding the Refugee Home
Sir J. Shackburgh S. of S.
To Sir Waldron Smithers (12c ansd) 14.4.36
Mr. Flood.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

would you please advise as to the reply which Mr. Thomas might make to the attached letter from Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., regarding Kenya.

W.Davis
14/4

This is a typical performance. The two Members have walked out of Council and we know all about it and have received the extracts from the local papers, but people in Kenya who have friends in Parliament send them copies of the papers with a view to stirring up trouble at this end.

The situation as regards the resignations is that they have been accepted by the Governor, that Lord Francis Scott was extremely rude to Sir Joseph Byrne and that the Governor is quite satisfied that the whole agitation which has been whipped up will die down equally quickly unless it is kept alive from here. It is, of course, a regular stock-in-trade of people in Kenya to say that conditions are very unhappy, but, with the improvement which seems to be coming along in agricultural matters, the unhappiness is probably mainly in the minds of the politically minded settlers.

In any event, the attitude of vulgar abuse which is what the Elected Members have taken refuge in is not calculated to advance their cause and, if no attention is paid to them, they will probably find something else to do. What is necessary is not to call attention to the situation but to take no notice of it and thereby perhaps help the people in Kenya to cultivate a sense of proportion. Neither the incident nor

see 38090/
herewith.

nor the people in Kenya has any real importance in the scheme of things.

Draft reply herewith on the assumption that it is to be forwarded to Sir Waldron Smithers' correspondent in Kenya as he asks at the finish. It is hardly suitable to send the whole of Mr. Thomas's letter to Captain Guest since that letter refers to correspondence from Major Cavendish-Bentinck which Sir Waldron has not got, but I think the extract will do quite well.

It is in my opinion very necessary to emphasize the fact that Kenya is governed by the Governor in Nairobi and that the settlers cannot on the one hand protest against interference from Downing Street, as they do, and on the other invoke the assistance of Downing Street and of private Members of Parliament whenever they think it suits their book.

J. L. G. Hand

16.4.36.

S. d.

Dft. reply submitted accordingly

W.S.

16/4/36

14 To Sir Waldron Smithers (12 and) 17.4.36.

15. See 9. Report. S/P
Reports effect of resignations from day C. Incl
relative news cutting

28 3 36

Sir C. Bottomley

You may wish to acknowledge No 15.

Also, if the S. of. agrees it might be well to let the Governor have privately a copy of his comm^o with Sir W. Smithers - kindly that with Capt. Guest in view of the letter from Major Cavendish-Bentinck.

J. L. G. Hand

21.4.

W.S.
Reply I do so please?
include the S. of. comes before the letter on his self. W.S. 22.4.36.

London

* No. 16 has no objection to your sending them.

W.S.

ref 4/36.

Copy of my reply attached

W.S.

24 April

16. To Sir Waldron Smithers (12 and) 17.4.36. - 24 April 36.
(Banc)

W.S.

Orig. on 38077/1 17. Governor Conf. ----- 19th. March, 1936
36 Kenya. Reports resignation of Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavendish-Bentinck from the Executive Council.

Also located 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12.
208 - - 2a, 13, 14, 16.

W.S.

? action on 8

18. Press cuttings Nos. 43, 44, 48, 49, 52, and 53.
(Registered as directed on 38051/36.)

No 18. - ? Put by.

I submit a draft with regard to No 8.

A. G. Smith
17.4.36.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1936.

THE DEFENCE OF KENYA

A New Scheme

It has been common knowledge for some time that the authorities in Kenya and in London have been considering the reorganisation of the internal defence organisations of the Colony. Defence has assumed an importance to-day that it has never had in history. Even prior to the war, in which this country played its part out of its own very limited resources in man-power and material in the early stages, less detailed consideration was given to defence problems than is the case everywhere in the world now. Reluctantly, and because in the light of recent experience the British Government has come to the conclusion that a strong Empire is the best guarantee for the peace of the world, the exercise of the authority of the League of Nations and the beneficial influence of the principle of collective security, Great Britain has taken in hand the reorganisation and modernisation of her defence services. The public, understanding fully the nature of the need and the objective, have made no demur; on the contrary the National Government was sent back largely to implement the pledge of armed security which is now being carried out. With the world as it is to-day, no part of the Empire, unhappily, can neglect its military needs and the present conflict in Abyssinia has given a warning to watchful people of the importance of preparedness and reminded them of the great changes brought about in conditions governing defence by the development of aircraft and modern weapons. For some years Kenya has established and maintained the principle that its European population must be ready to provide for the security of their homes and of the welfare of subject races committed to the charge of the British people. The Kenya Defence Force has had a chequered career—in some ways as General Lewin's correspondence asserts to-day an unhappy experience—but despite every difficulty and discouragement it has established the fact that there lies upon the shoulders of the Europeans of Kenya a clear responsibility which the majority of them have willingly accepted. In his Farewell Order General Lewin spoke highly of their quality and none who know the settlers of this country will doubt the sincerity and truth of his tribute. But the Kenya Defence Force has had some defects and the main one has been that, despite its loyalty, it has not been properly a part of the framework of the forces of the Crown and one of the principal changes proposed in the scheme published to-day, is to absorb the K.D.F. into

of the Governor as Commander in Chief and of his principal executive officers. That is not a change to which anyone who regarded the K.D.F. in its true light as a force for the defence of Kenya, will object. It has the added advantage of vesting the new unit with full authority and it binds Government quite definitely to its encouragement. The proposal is that there should be formed a Kenya Regiment. That in itself will secure for the unit a close identity with the Colony which not only explains its nature but will surely be a source of real pride. Associated with it will be an artillery and searchlight unit for the defence of Mombasa, in co-operation with the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Behind these will be a Kenya Regiment Reserve and it is in connexion with this latter body that the compulsory principle will be retained and firmly applied. The Regiment and the special units at Mombasa will be on the lines of a Territorial Force and will be voluntary, except that service in the ranks of these forces will have to be taken seriously. At the present time there are several units of the Kenya Defence Force throughout the country. It should be made clear, we think, that if sufficient volunteers come forward in any district a Territorial Unit will be formed there so that people living in scattered communities in the settled areas may feel as secure under the new scheme as they do under the existing K.D.F. organisation. But the Territorial Force is essentially voluntary in its character and if the scheme goes through as it is now framed, its success will be a proper test of Kenya's loyalty and sense of responsibility for her own defence. We have heard a great deal against the principle of conscription; now let us see the critics hurry forward to offer their services as volunteers in the Colony's own Regiment. If they don't and if there are not enough volunteers, the East African Standard will not hesitate to call upon the Government of this country to introduce conscription again and to bring pressure to bear on all young men to discharge the obligations of their British inheritance. So far as the Reserve is concerned, the weakness in the scheme is that the masses, though compulsorily registered and given their place in a general scheme, will have no training and it is a matter for serious consideration whether every able-bodied man up to a certain age limit should not be called upon to go through a course of rifle shooting as his practical contribution to mass effectiveness. Even with a plan and a register, a mob of untrained civilians are a handicap on military authorities, they would be less burdensome and far more useful if each of them could handle a rifle. That is a point which Government might consider in connexion with the encouragement of Rifle Clubs, which have survived largely to date on the enthusiasm of their members. The essential thing, as the Secretary of State has said, is to provide means for the utilisation of the full British man-power of

13
12
If the scheme offers this security and in that way is an improvement on the present, or if by a combination of both or some modification or adjustment it can be still further improved, then the wise thing to do is to put all prejudices aside and join together in working out something that will stand the test. It is in that spirit we commend it to the consideration of the country, with this proviso that if the voluntary principle does not produce enough men for training to meet the real needs, Government must not hesitate to seek further powers. If we are going to do a job, let us do it thoroughly this time; that applies to Government as well as to the public. As promised in legislative Council a local Com-

mittee is to be invited to advise the Secretary of State, through the Government, on the scheme in its local setting. If their proposals are wise, and sound the country will expect this Government to back them because, after all, what the despatch provides is only the theory and we are all concerned ultimately in the practice. Publication of the details of the scheme will also probably convince those people in Mombasa who charged Government with having laid them open to attack for the sake of two guns and a few searchlights. Although Mombasa is now a "defended" port, nobody need think that in its undefended state it was free from attack. After all it is an important harbour where military stores are handled and housed, it is an oil depot, a watering place for ships and a talking port for units of the Navy. Those things would have been enough excuse for most aggressors.

E.A. Standard 6 March 1962
No. 42

Kenya Defence Force

GENERAL LEWIN'S LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

To the Editor, "E. A. Standard."

Sir,—I request that you will be good enough to publish the enclosed copy of my letter resigning my position of Commandant of the Kenya Defence Force together with my letter to the Hon. The Colonial Secretary explaining my reasons for taking this step.

Yours etc.

A. C. LEWIN.

Njoro.
March 4, 1966.

[copy]

Your Excellency,
Following our interview this afternoon I have the honour hereby to submit my formal resignation as Commandant of the Kenya Defence Force.

My reason for taking this step is that I find it impossible to carry out my duties as Commandant when I find that I am not consulted in matters affecting the Force under my Command.

As an instance I would mention Your Excellency's recent action in approaching members of the Kenya Defence Force (thus men I naturally look upon as under my command) regarding the raising of volunteers in Mombasa, without having previously informed me of Your Excellency's intention to do so.

As a further and perhaps more glaring instance, I understand Your Excellency has submitted to the authorities at home as part of a comprehensive scheme suggestions which might entail a complete reorganization of the Kenya Defence Force or even the possible disbandment of the Force in its present form. I consider to have done so without even the knowledge of, or any form of consultation with, those best qualified to assist Your Excellency in such a matter, and in particular without either the knowledge of or the consultation with the Commandant of the Defence Force, has been, to use a mild term, a great error of judgment which I fear may lead to difficulties later on.

Those I may say are but two of the many instances of the ignoring of the Commandant in matters regarding which he obviously has at least the right to be consulted.

I regret to have to add that throughout the whole period of my Command I have not received at Your Excellency's hands the consideration and support to which I was entitled. There appears to have been on Your Excellency's part a studied antipathy to the Force under my Command and on no occasion have we, as a Force, received either Your Excellency's help or encouragement.

My regard and admiration for the officers and men I have had the honour to command during the period of my association with the Kenya Defence Force, notwithstanding my regret for this unfortunate relationship between the Force and Your Excellency as Commandant in Chief, I can only trust that this state of affairs may possibly terminate upon the appointment of my successor, whom I hope may be favoured with some greater measure of Your Excellency's confidence.

I have the honour, etc.

A. C. LEWIN.

Brig. General.

To
His Excellency Sir Joseph Byrne,
G. C. M. G., K. B. E., C. B.

[copy]

Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of 25th February informing me of the views of His Excellency the Governor as to the propriety of publishing my letter of resignation, and informing me that to do so would, in his opinion, violate accepted traditions of public service.

In view of His Excellency's remarks I have given this matter most careful consideration. Under ordinary circumstances or had my resignation been made on personal grounds I would naturally never, for one moment, consider the publication of correspondence of this nature.

In my position as late Commandant of the Kenya Defence

Force I would, however, again remind His Excellency that I am convinced that during the period I was in command, neither the Kenya Defence Force nor I as Commandant, received treatment which I was entitled to expect. Furthermore, since my resignation, Government have specifically declined to give any information as to the reasons which led me to take this step.

I am unable to see any cause for secrecy in this matter on grounds of political expediency or other, nor do I consider that any undesirable precedent will be created. On the contrary I have come to the conclusion that I should be shirking responsibility were I to take the easier course, and avoid rendering what I consider to be a public service to this Colony and to the Kenya Defence Force by publishing my letter of resignation. I have therefore decided to do so.

With regard to all circumstances of the case I feel sure that His Excellency will, on reflection, admit that there are many precedents which entirely justify my action.

I have the honour, etc.

A. C. LEWIN.

To,
The Hon. The Colonial Secretary.

THE DEFENCE OF KENYA

A Committee of Enquiry

In accordance with undertakings given, His Excellency the Governor of Kenya has appointed a local Committee to examine the suggestions contained in the Secretary of State's dispatch on defence. The Committee, which is under the chairmanship of the Officer Commanding, Northern Brigade, includes the Commandant of the 1st Battalion, Kenya Defence Force and the President of the Rifle Association. The Committee is instructed by its terms of reference to "examine the suggestions for the reorganisation of the Defence Forces" contained in Mr. Thomas' dispatch and to prepare any draft legislation required. The Report is to be made "for the consideration" of the Kenya Government and the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The wording of the terms of reference make it clear that the dispatch is 'not to be regarded as more than a suggestion' and that so far as the local Committee is concerned, the members are in no way bound or restricted in the direction of their examination. They may approve in whole or in part; they may also reject the Thomas scheme if they do not consider it suitable. That is the extent of their liberty of thought and action and it is important that the Committee, and the people of the country, should appreciate that fact at the outset. The announcement also indicates that in the opinion of Government the work of the Committee should provide for those who have views on the question of defence an opportunity to have their opinions considered. There is a wealth of knowledge in this country in matters of defence. The Colony numbers among its residents ex-officers of high rank who have had long and practical experience in the field and they are well qualified to guide this Committee in its work by giving evidence. Some of them have shown by their work in the Kenya Defence Force that they have a great enthusiasm for voluntarily assisting the authorities in the organisation of the defence of the Colony and the Committee should not lack sound knowledge and help in the discharge of its important task. It is expected, and indeed the Colony will take it for granted, that every encouragement will be given to qualified people throughout the country to come forward and help the Committee to examine the Secretary of State's suggestions and to provide for the Government and for the Secretary of State a Report, based on

will indicate beyond doubt the type of organisation which the community by virtue of its knowledge of local conditions considers necessary to meet the special requirements of Kenya. It is quite obvious that the development of the situation in regard to the port of Mombasa, the defence of which will be an East African responsibility, introduced a new and important Imperial factor into the whole situation and that this new phase of local needs was taken fully into consideration by the Secretary of State when he reviewed the position. So far as the people of Kenya are concerned, there is one main issue and one only—the proper defence of the country—and the essential purpose of the Committee, as it will appear to the public, is to recommend to the authorities a scheme which meets the modern requirements of that problem. Not the least important question is the defence of the districts. Criticism has been directed against the Secretary of State's suggestions on the grounds that they do not provide for the adequate and essential security of the scattered population of outlying areas. Nobody can be better qualified to impress upon the authorities through this Committee the real facts in this connexion, and to urge a scheme which meets that need, than the leading residents in those districts, particularly those who have been associated for many years with that aspect of colonial development. It is also obvious to all those who are acquainted with the composition of the population of the Colony that there are many people who would make ideal material for the tasks of leadership as officers and non-commissioned officers. A proper scheme of defence should provide a place for them and make full use of the asset which the younger generations in particular represent. It would be a catastrophe if, in the event of the need arising again, that material was employed in the early stages in capacities which did not make the fullest and best use of these special qualities and if the defence forces of the country lacked the trained leadership which is available for timely preparation.

So far as the needs of the county districts are concerned, it is important to emphasise the value of that material in any suitable scheme and it is also necessary to remember that the history of Africa has always shown that the needs of defence demand an organisation which can be called into being at very short notice. That is a factor in the whole situation known best to those whose lives are spent under these conditions and, however sound may be the theories of the experts, they require to be applied in direction which provide for the emergencies which are never far distant from the circumstances of life in the Continent. The present Kenya Defence Force has been brought into the foreground of recent controversy. It will be agreed by all those who have impartially followed the development of the dispute that the Elected Members were justified by the facts in believing that their views and their knowledge of the requirements of the settled community have not been given proper consideration in a question which so directly affects a community called upon to carry a very heavy responsibility on behalf of all races. But the causes of that controversy and the principles which animate it are not to be confused with the major issue of the adequate defence of the country and it would be doing the Elected Members less than justice to believe that they will oppose in any way the examination of a problem which has as its object the best use of the European manpower of the Colony. Nevertheless it is important to remember that, apart from an unfortunately worded sentence in his dispatch, the Secretary of State has not disclosed the reasons which led him to the conclusion that disbandment of the Defence Force is in the best interests of the country and the only course to follow. The present Committee will be expected by the public to discover how, if at all, the Defence Force has failed and to convey that information to the country so that the scheme which is recommended may be judged as to its efficacy and its claims for consideration in the light of that knowledge and the lessons of experience.

19

8 May, 1936.

My dear General

In your letter of the 12th of March you ask whether you would be justified in refusing in future to appoint anyone to the Executive Council who had taken the oath of secrecy to the Vigilance Committee. The position is awkward. From what I have been told it seems that a good many of the leading Unofficials rushed into the Vigilance Committee in a burst of enthusiasm. It would be difficult therefore to find anyone of importance in local politics who had not been linked up with it in one way or another. Personally I think it would be best, when you are considering the suitability of individuals for inclusion in your Executive Council, to ignore the existence of the Committee altogether. But I fully agree with you that there is no present hurry about filling the vacancies.

From

BRIGADIER-GENERAL

SIR JOSEPH BYRNE, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

From the news we get through other quarters things appear to be easier in Kenya with some signs of returning prosperity. Our last informant was Mr. Cheer (Lord Howard de Walden's ^{son} man) who called in and talked. He differs from us in thinking there is a future for maize - in some places and in some hands, by no means all - and no doubt he is right with that limitation. We have to consider the industry as a whole. He showed Flood a letter he wrote to you about the Bond Scheme which appeared to be on orthodox lines. But he too confirmed the general impression that there is a slight but definite turn for the better.

yours sincerely
J. H. ...

I am sorry I have not been able to answer your letter earlier

C. O.

off
C.D.
R 6 MAY
D 7

8090/1/36.

19

Mr. Grossmith. 15. 5.36.
Mr. *Park* 5.5
Mr. *Hard* 5.5

Semi-official for Sir C. Bottomley's signature

Sir G. Parkinson

Sir G. Tomlinson.

X Sir C. Bottomley. 6.57

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing Street.

8 May, 1936.

DRAFT.

My dear Byrnes

BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR JOSEPH BYRNES,
G.O.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

(8)

In your letter of the 12th of March you ask whether you would be justified in refusing in future to appoint anyone to the Executive Council who had taken the oath of secrecy to the Vigilance Committee. The position is awkward. From what I have been told it seems that ^{a good many} ~~most~~ of the leading Unofficials rushed into the Vigilance Committee in a burst of enthusiasm. It would be difficult therefore to find anyone who had not been linked up with it in one way or another. Personally I

think

FURTHER ACTION.

of importance in local politics

think it would be best, when you are considering the suitability of individuals for inclusion in your Executive Council, to ignore the

existence of the ~~Welfare~~ Committee altogether.

But I fully agree with you that there is no ^{present} hurry about filling the vacancies.

From the news we get through other quarters things appear to be easier in Kenya with some signs of returning prosperity. Our last informant was Mr Cheer (the Honourable de Waldin's man) who called in and talked. He differs from us in thinking there is a future for maize - in some places and, in some hands, by no means all - and we doubt he is right ~~with that conviction. We~~ but ~~at least~~ ~~his~~ ~~views~~ ~~on~~ ~~things~~ ~~seem~~ less to consider the question of industry as a whole. He showed Flood a letter he wrote to you about the Bond Scheme which appeared to be on orthodox lines. But he too confirmed the general impression that there is a slight but definite turn for the better.

Yours sincerely,
(SIGNED) ... OTTOMLEY.

I am sorry I have not been able to answer your letter earlier.

[C.A.S.] have been trying to see how they would be used for more than one year with quite a few years possible. (C.A.S.)

think it would be best, when you are considering the suitability of individuals for inclusion in your Executive Council, to ignore the

existence of the ~~Advisance~~ ~~Committee~~ altogether.

But I fully agree with you that there is no ^{present} hurry about filling the vacancies.

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places and, in some hands, by no means all - and we doubt he is right ~~to~~ ~~with that conviction~~. We ~~but~~ ~~attending~~ ~~his~~ ~~views~~ ~~on~~ ~~things~~ ~~seen~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~consider~~ ~~his~~ ~~position~~ ~~in~~ ~~Kenya~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~whole~~. ~~reasonable~~. He showed Flood a letter he wrote

to you about the Bond Scheme which appeared to be on orthodox lines. But he too confirmed the general impression that there is a slight but definite turn for the better.

Yours sincerely,
(SIGNED) C. OTTOMLEY.

[As I have been
going to see the
Board for some time I
am not quite prepared
to say that it is not
reasonable. (as)]

I am sorry I have not been able

2 A Standard

No. 43 19

Executive Council Members Resign

DECISION BY LORD FRANCIS SCOTT & MAJOR CAVENDISH-BENTINCK

Charges Against Governor

FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF DESPATCH ON KENYA DEFENCE SCHEME

Lord Francis Scott and Major F. W. Cavendish-Bentinck, the two European Unofficial Members of the Governor of Kenya's Executive Council, resigned on Sunday.

The correspondence published below, setting out their reasons in detail, particularly by Lord Francis Scott, states that the publication of the Secretary of State's despatch on defence in the Press on Friday, before the Unofficial Members of Executive Council were informed of the contents or their advice asked, constitutes the last glaring instance of His Excellency's treatment of the unofficial community and cannot be overlooked.

His Excellency is charged with having failed to take the accredited representatives of the European community into his confidence on many occasions during his term of office and that failure is stated to be the cause of much regrettable friction during the past few years.

In the circumstances His Excellency's action is interpreted as showing that he places no trust or confidence in the judgment of his unofficial advisers.

"No Trust or Confidence"

The correspondence which was issued yesterday by the two members is in the following terms —

(1)

8th March, 1936.
To His Excellency Brig. General Sir J. A. Byrne, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Government House, Nairobi, Your Excellency,

I enclose herewith my letter of resignation from Executive Council. I propose sending a copy of this letter to all European Elected Members for their information, and will also send copies to the Press on Tuesday afternoon for publication next Wednesday.

I have the honour to be, etc.
FRANCIS SCOTT

(2)

8th March, 1936.
To His Excellency, Brig. General Sir J. A. Byrne, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the protest made by myself and Major F. W. Cavendish-Bentinck

encouragement and assistance from Your Excellency and your Government. When it was first formed it received every encouragement from the then Governor, Sir Edward Grigg, who had a most distinguished record in the Great War, but since then not only has it been starved of money, which was perhaps unavoidable, but it has received no sympathy or encouragement from Your Excellency.

I had no intimation of the proposed change until I read the Secretary of State's Despatch in Friday morning's paper, though one might have expected as a small matter of courtesy I should have been informed by Your Excellency beforehand instead of being left to read it in this Press news. In that Despatch the Secretary of State says: "I have come to the conclusion that in the interests of the general security of Kenya the best and indeed the only possible course is to disband the existing Defence Force." On what grounds has the Secretary of State come so definitely to this conclusion; a conclusion which, in my opinion, is a most serious and unjustified affront to

(3)

To His Excellency Brig. General Sir J. A. Byrne, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that Lt.-Col. the Hon. Lord Francis Scott discussed with me the terms and has shown me the text of his letter to Your Excellency, dated March 8th.

As Your Excellency knows I am in complete agreement with Lord Francis Scott and concur with every word of his letter, which I consider states the position so admirably that no reiteration on my part would serve any useful purpose.

I would merely also stress the fact that our protest is not being made on personal grounds but on a question of major principle.

I feel strongly that for some reason Your Excellency has not deemed fit to take the Unofficial community into your confidence to a reasonable extent during Your Excellency's term of Office, which fact has led to much of the friction which has occurred as between Government and the Unofficial community during the last few years.

This last instance to which Lord Francis Scott refers in his letter to Your Excellency is so glaring that I consider that we should be betraying the trust which has been vested in us by those who put us into Council were we to accept this position any longer, and as Your Excellency apparently considers that we are not worthy of Your Excellency's confidence I feel that no useful purpose can be served by remaining on Your Excellency's Executive Council and I hereby also beg to tender my resignation.

I have the honour to be, etc.
F. W. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK.

(4)

Cable sent to the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

On behalf European community must register strongest possible protest against arbitrary disbandment Kenya Defence Force without any reference representatives Unofficial community who were not even informed prior to publication in Press stop This further instance disregard Unofficial opinion has caused such justifiable resentment that Bentinck and I have resigned Executive Council

FRANCIS SCOTT

(5)

Government House, Kenya

My Lord,

"No Trust or Confidence"

The correspondence which was issued yesterday by the two members is in the following terms —

(1)

8th March, 1936.
To His Excellency Brig. General Sir J. A. Byrne, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Government House, Nairobi, Your Excellency.

I enclose herewith my letter of resignation from Executive Council. I propose sending a copy of this letter to all European Elected Members for their information, and will also send copies to the Press on Tuesday afternoon for publication next Wednesday.

I have the honour to be, etc.,
FRANCIS SCOTT

(2)

8th March 1936
To His Excellency Brig. General Sir J. A. Byrne, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Government House, Nairobi, Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the protest made by myself and Major the Hon. F. W. Cavendish-Bentinck at the Meeting of Executive Council held on Friday last, March 6th, and I regret to say that after giving the matter the most careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that I can no longer serve as a Member of Your Excellency's Executive Council.

The protest we made was on a major principle and not on personal grounds.

Under the Constitution of this Colony the European unofficial community is represented by eleven Members in Legislative Council, and it has been customary for Your Excellency to nominate two of these Elected Members to Your Excellency's Executive Council. The primary object of including two Elected Members on Your Excellency's Executive Council is to enable Your Excellency not only to refer to these two Members for advice on matters affecting the Colony as a whole but especially on subjects which specifically affect the community which they represent. It therefore follows that if these two Members are effectively to shoulder this responsibility they must feel assured that they enjoy Your Excellency's confidence to the extent at least of being kept informed of such measures as may from time to time be devised which affect the European unofficial community. This, however, does not unfortunately seem to have been the position during Your Excellency's term of Office.

We have no hesitation in saying that had Your Excellency seen fit to take the Unofficial community into your confidence to a reasonable extent during your term of Office much of the regrettable friction which has been evident during recent years between Government and the Unofficial community would have been avoided.

The last glaring instance of the way in which Your Excellency has seen fit to treat the Unofficial community is one which in view of the history of the past two or three years I feel we cannot overlook.

As you must well know the Kenya Defence Force is part of the organisation of this Colony, and in fact part of its constitution and vitally affects the interests of

encouragement and assistance from Your Excellency and your Government. When it was first formed it received every encouragement from the then Governor, Sir Edward Grigg, who had a most distinguished record in the Great War, but since then not only has it been starved of money, which was perhaps unavoidable, but it has received no sympathy or encouragement from Your Excellency.

I had no intimation of the proposed change until I read the Secretary of State's Despatch in Friday morning's paper, though one might have expected as a small matter of courtesy I should have been informed by Your Excellency beforehand instead of being left to read it in the Press news. In that Despatch the Secretary of State says: "I have come to the conclusion that in the interests of the general security of Kenya the best and indeed the only possible course is to disband the existing Defence Force. On what grounds has the Secretary of State come so definitely to this conclusion; a conclusion which, of course, is a big affront to everyone who has been a Member of the Kenya Defence Force. It can only have been come to as a result of Despatches sent home by Your Excellency, presumably the Despatches mentioned in the Secretary of State's own Despatch. Obviously the question of the Kenya Defence Force has been actively discussed by Your Excellency during the last fifteen months or more, and yet never has my opinion or advice been sought, although I have been all that time the accredited representative of the European community on Your Excellency's Executive Council, and though I have always been actively interested in the welfare of the Kenya Defence Force from its birth and in fact for some time was its Commandant. To the best of my knowledge no other person intimately connected with the Kenya Defence Force has been asked for his advice, and certainly not the late Commandant.

We do not in any way cavil at the fact that Your Excellency may be in disagreement with us on this matter. Your Excellency is Governor of this Colony, and as such has the right to take any action which you may consider to be in the interests of the Colony. We only claim to have the right of being informed of Your Excellency's views and of the reasons or grounds on which such views may be based: such information can furthermore always be conveyed to the Elected Members serving on Your Excellency's Executive Council in confidence. We should then know the position and although possibly not in agreement, we should nevertheless in many cases support Your Excellency.

I consider that an affront has been given to the whole European community through myself and my colleague on Your Excellency's Executive Council in that their recognised representatives have been deliberately ignored in a matter vitally affecting the whole community. It seems to me that by your action you have shown that you place no trust or confidence in our judgment and I find that I cannot with any self-respect remain a Member of Your Excellency's Executive Council.

any longer, and as I consider that we are not worthy of Your Excellency's confidence I feel that no useful purpose can be served by remaining on Your Excellency's Executive Council and I hereby also beg to tender my resignation.

I have the honour to be, etc.,
F. W. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK.

(4)

Cable sent to the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

On behalf European community must register strongest possible protest against arbitrary disbandment Kenya Defence Force without any reference representatives Unofficial community who were not even informed prior to publication in Press stop This further instance disregard Unofficial opinion has caused such justifiable resentment that Bentinck and I have resigned Executive Council.

FRANCIS SCOTT

(5)

Government House, Kenya.

My Lord,

I have received with very real regret your letter of the 8th March submitting to me your resignation from my Executive Council. Under the circumstances I have no alternative but to accept this resignation.

I have the honour to be, etc.,
J. BYRNE, Governor.

Lt.-Col. the Hon. Lord Francis Scott, D.S.O., c/o The Elected Members' Organisation, Nairobi.

(6)

Government House, Kenya, 9th March, 1936.

Sir,

I have received with regret your letter of the 8th March submitting to me your resignation from my Executive Council.

Under the circumstances I have no alternative but to accept this resignation.

I have the honour to be, etc.,
J. BYRNE, Governor.

Major the Hon. F. Cavendish-Bentinck, c/o the Elected Members' Organisation.



Wednesday 11th Mar 1936

COMMANDANT Vs
GOVERNOR

THE question of the defence of this Colony and Protectorate should, as the issue has become at Home, be above party and politics. But, is it? Let us examine the position as it is reflected in the resignation of General Lewin from his post of Commandant of the Kenya Defence Force. In his letter of resignation General Lewin states a case of lack of support from His Excellency the Governor. What ever he, as commandant, did, says General Lewin in effect, was nullified by lack of Government support. The language used in stating this case was unequivocal; indeed, many men of less official stature than a Governor might have been pardoned for taking exception to it. On the other hand, supporters of General Lewin will have it that the language is that of a plain, blunt, outspoken soldier with a message to deliver, irrespective of whose feelings he hurts or whose toes he treads upon. If this latter be the case, no more close champion of General Lewin would be found than the "Guardian" which believes that the time, the place, and the subject govern the language used. It is not *always* either judicious or expedient to call a spade a spade; but occasions do arise when no other name will suffice and, when public interests are at stake, plain speaking and hard digging are essential and imperative. But one wonders if this action of General Lewin was entirely inspired by a desire to rectify a state of affairs in the K. D. F. which he seemed to have found as undesirable as it was hopeless. There seems to be no doubt that many difficulties were in the way of the progress of the force. To begin with, it was starved for lack of money; that, however, was not a charge that could be laid to the Governor or the Government—unless, of course, the argument be carried to the extent that had there been less departmental extravagance, funds would have been available for the Defence Force! However that may be, General Lewin, without doubt, had a legitimate grievance. In regard to paucity of Funds. But one does not know if that were his grouse! The letter of resignation does not specifically say so. If it were, the charge was somewhat unfair as His Excellency had no power to vote any more money than had already been voted in the Estimates. The matter, one assumes, goes deeper than that. How deep? In what other ways could His Excellency deny support to the Commandant? It is difficult to understand

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No. 4

explained his full powers under the Ordinance, to carry on his job. Neither the Governor nor anyone else could alter those powers arbitrarily. By Legislative Act the powers of the Commandant could be affected, but His Excellency could not take individual action to interfere, say, with the Commandant in the execution of his duties. But, it may be argued, there was no question of interference: the charge made against His Excellency is one of lack of support. Assuming this, then, what support did His Excellency withhold from General Lewin? One is not told. A general charge is made by the Commandant. And general charges are easily made—if difficult to refute. One would prefer to have specific details of this lack of support before accepting unreservedly the General's explanation of why he resigned. Did His Excellency, for example, refuse to attend parades of troops? Did he absent himself on ceremonial occasions when his presence would have been helpful? Did he ignore requests for assistance at social evenings or mess gatherings? Did he show by his demeanour that the K.D.F. or its commandant or anyone else connected with it, was distasteful to him? Pending some really informative explanation on these points—and there are, doubtless, many other considerations which do not occur to a non-military-minded writer—one feels loath to applaud General Lewin and condemn His Excellency. The propriety of publishing the letter of resignation is interwoven with these reflections. The "Guardian" has quite an open mind on this aspect of the matter. If General Lewin is correct in his attitude—and that, in the estimation of this journal, is lacking in proof—then, perhaps, he had full justification in taking the public into his confidence in a very vital matter of public interest. But what if General Lewin is not acceptably correct in his attitude? What, for example, if political expedience is at the back of this resignation? What if the resignation of the Commandant of the K. D. F. and the publication of his letter of resignation with its explanatory letter to the Colonial Secretary, are part of a political movement to embarrass the Governor and the Government at a very delicate time in the international and inter-territorial situation, with a view to forcing the Government's hands in regard, say, to economy and further expenditure on defensive or other schemes? Politics, at the best of times, are unstable and impermanent and one supposes that they are no less unstable in Kenya than elsewhere. It may be that the Up-country political party has seized what they consider a golden opportunity to inconvenience the Government and, in the process, have enlisted the sympathy and assistance of some of the military leaders who may be perfectly honest in their intentions but misled in their actions. The Guardian certainly finds it difficult to accept General Lewin's resignation at its face value, and would prefer to await a detailed

explanation from the ex-Commandant before condemning His Excellency for actions which, it seems to this paper, are vaguely outlined and are not convincing.



Thursday 12th Mar 1936

MORE RESIGNATIONS

It has been pointed out to the Guardian in that, yesterday's editorial, full justice was not done to General Lewin's letter of resignation, inasmuch as no reference was made to his complaint that he, as Commandant, had not been consulted regarding comprehensive changes, and even the possible disbandment of the Defence Force of which he, General Lewin, was in full command. General Lewin also made reference in his resignation to the raising of volunteers in Mombasa. As regards this last, one assumes that the General was considering the K. B. N. V. R., with which, so far as this journal is aware, he had nothing whatever to do; therefore, there was no obligation upon the Governor to inform him of the raising of volunteers for this purpose, although, as an act of courtesy, one assumes His Excellency might have done so. As regards the secret despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, here, one finds it difficult to assess values. On the one hand, one may reasonably assume that there are times when a High Command may consider it judicious, or expedient not, pro tem, to take into his full confidence his second in command, however much that individual may be staunch and trustworthy while, on the other, one may argue that the Commandant of such a body as the Kenya Defence Force has a prior right to consultation upon everything connected with the Force. Lacking the other side of the story, however,

one finds it difficult to accept General Lewin's position as absolutely correct in every detail, and that of his Excellency as absolutely wrong in every detail. The Governor, unfortunately, is not in a position to reply, or to enter into any discussion on the subject so that General Lewin has the field to himself and can claim a bloodless victory! This is by no means satisfactory, however, and it may be that the Governor may yet be enabled to set forth the position in his own interests and the interests of the Colony as a whole. In the meanwhile, the wholesale resignations of officers of the Defence Force, as set forth elsewhere, in addition to the resignations of Lord Francis Scott and Major the Hon. F. Cavendish Bentinck, rather strengthen the suggestion thrown out in yesterday's editorial, that a strong political movement is behind this latest demonstration. That feeling is reinforced by the references made by Lord Francis Scott to the alleged lack of co-operation on the part of His Excellency the Governor with the Unofficial Members and others

representative of the people although on what grounds Lord Francis claims to represent European unofficial opinion remains to be seen. He certainly does not represent Mombasa opinion European or otherwise. This charge has been so frequently brought, however, that one feels the necessity for a thorough investigation into a matter of very vital interest to the Colony and Protectorate in the interests of all concerned. The very consistency of the charge demands that it be answered in some form or other, and by some responsible Government member, if not, by His Excellency. While this is so, however, while one realizes that those Unofficial Members must feel very strongly on the subject, and while they have done and act as they have done, one also questions the wisdom, at this time, of stress and strain, of these various resignations. For example, if General Lewin and, later, Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavendish Bentinck, had reason to believe that secret negotiations were going on behind their backs in regard to the Defence of this country, and that they, and those they commanded or represented, were being slighted as a consequence, one cannot resist the feeling that their nobler and more manly course would have been, not to have avoided the issue, at this particularly critical juncture, but to have waited it, faced it, and challenged it as and when it arose, retaining their several positions in order the better to carry weight with them. Each and every one of these men who has thrown up his position under the Defence Force Ordinance, or in his capacity as elected representatives of the people, has reverted to his previous status of a private citizen and, as such, cannot possibly be either so impressive or so efficient in any protests he makes or any campaign he may have to wage. His Excellency's position, the "Guardian" still considers, remains unshaken by these various reverberations around his Office and, in the long run, he must, inevitably, emerge from the rough and tumble of the present deplorable controversy with an enhanced prestige, while those who have sacrificed their positions on account of what they, no doubt, believe to be a sincere conviction will get neither themselves, their constituents nor those under their command, any further forward in their struggle for recognition.

Handwritten notes:
No copy
No 47

No 52

2. A Standard

17th March 1948

DEFENCE FORCE

**Governor's Action "Insult"
says the Trans Nzoia D.A.**

"STANDARD" CORRESPONDENT],
Kitale, March 13.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Trans Nzoia District Association held to-day the following resolution was carried nem. con.

That this Committee considers the action of His Excellency the Governor in disbanding the Defence Force without consulting either his Executive Council or the commandant a gross insult to the whole European community.

Copies of this resolution have been sent to the Chairman of the Elected Members Organization and the Colonists' Vigilance Committee.

Trans Nzoia

The following resolution was also unanimously adopted.

That this Committee wholeheartedly concurs in the action taken by Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavendish-Bentick in resigning from Executive Council.

E. A. Standard 17 March 1936

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The Editor does not accept responsibility for the views expressed by his correspondents in these columns and in all cases the name and address of the writer must accompany a letter, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. Brevity is also essential to ensure consideration.

Executive Council

A POLITICAL PRINCIPLE

To the Editor. "E.A. Standard,"

Sir,—May I make a few observations through your columns on the resignations from Executive Council, not as a partisan in the squabble between His Excellency and two of his unofficial advisers, but as one of the many who regard these resignations as long overdue.

Surely membership of the Executive Council is incompatible with membership of an oath-bound Vigilance Committee formed for the purpose of undermining the people's confidence in Government and influencing them to agitate against its policies? What amazes me is not that the Governor should have withheld his confidence from, and declined to put his trust in, the two gentlemen who have resigned; but that they should have continued to act as unofficial advisers to His Excellency after they had taken the decision to go into open opposition against him. And then to complain publicly that he refused to trust them with his confidence!

Surely it is contrary to all political theories that the leader of the people's party agitating for constitutional change, and his first lieutenant, should be members of the Executive Council of the Government that they are attempting by constitutional means to overthrow? I have held and advocated this view for many years past, and withdrew from politics when it was forced upon me that either the colonists of Kenya have no real desire for self-government or entirely lack the ability to utilise their powers to achieve it in due time.

I suggest that these resignations are eloquent evidence of the soundness of my view that it is not only contrary to sound political doctrine, but disastrous in practice, to have the leaders of a people demanding constitutional changes members of the Executive Council of the Government that is deriding the necessity for or wisdom of the changes demanded.

Few will deny that our political

efforts have been almost barren of results in recent years. I believe our failure to be very largely due to our not recognising that the system by which representatives of the people are associated with government is the one and only method by which Crown Colony Government can be perpetuated against the wishes of the colonists, and that the more actively the colonists associate themselves with government the more difficult they make it for themselves to effect the desired changes. The Crown Colony system has its merits. Intelligently applied by both parties—it is almost an ideal system between the time when open and avowed autocratic or oligarchic rule must give way to the demands of the people for more democratic government. But from the moment when the people begin to feel that they have out-grown its advantages, it is a subtle web from which they must break free if they really do mean to undertake the responsibilities of—and not merely the stage trappings of—a semblance of self-government.

If the resignation of Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavenish-Bentinck from Executive Council is merely an isolated action marking a strong difference of opinion between themselves and the Governor as to their respective rights and responsibilities, then it has no significance beyond affording friends and enemies further proof of our inability to play the political game intelligently, and most people will deplore it. But if it means that at last our leaders recognise the necessity for over-hauling the foundations of our political ideas, and that they are thinking out more practical methods by which to achieve our political objectives than those followed in the past, then their resignation from Executive Council is to be welcomed.

To avoid misunderstanding, let me make clear that in speaking of more practical methods by which to achieve our political objectives, I am not hinting at direct action or anything of that sort; such methods are entirely foreign to our ideas in this country. All I have in mind is a more practical application of the time-honoured methods by which the British peoples in the past, both at home and in the Colonies, have forced upon unwilling statesmen recognition of the necessity for constitutional and administrative changes in the interests of peace, prosperity and good government.

Yours etc.
THOS. J. O'SHEA.

Eldoret,
March 12, 1936.

10
Air Mail

Kenya
No. 30.

Original on 38077/1/75 Kenya.
(Executive Council Appts.)

207 38077/1/75 97 23
19 March, 1936

~~CONFIDENTIAL.~~

Sir,

I have the honour to report the resignation from the Executive Council of Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Francis George Montagu-Douglas-Scott, D. S. O., whose appointment as an unofficial member was confirmed in despatch No. 9 of Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister (now Lord Swinton) of the 6th January, 1932, and of Major Frederick William Cavendish-Bentinck whom, as reported in my despatch No. 33 of the 17th January, 1936, I had provisionally appointed to be temporarily an unofficial member during the absence from the Colony and Protectorate of Captain Helmuth Eric Schwartz.

2. In accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet dated the 29th March, 1934, Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavendish-Bentinck tendered their resignations by writing in letters dated the 8th March, 1936.

3. Copies of these letters and of the replies in which these resignations were accepted are attached to this despatch.

In view of the fact that the attendant circumstances have already been

THE RIGHT HON. J. H. THOMAS, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

/reported

confidentially reported to Sir Cecil Beatty, I have no comments to offer on this correspondence.

4. The question of the recommendation to His Majesty the King of a successor to Lord Francis Scott is at present engaging my attention and will shortly, it is expected, form the subject of a further despatch.

Since it is understood that Captain Schwartz will be returning to the Colony at an early date, I do not propose to make a temporary appointment in the place of Major Owendick-Bentley.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. BYRNE.
BRIGADIER-GENERAL,
GOVERNOR.

COPIES.

27

Government House.

9th March, 1936

Sir,

I have received with regret your letter of the 8th March submitting to me your resignation from my Executive Council.

Under the circumstances I have no alternative but to accept this resignation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) J.A. Byrne,
Governor.

Major the Hon.
P. Cavendish Bentinck,
c/o The Elected Members Organisation,
P.O. Box 825, Nairobi

Government House.

9th March, 1936

Sir,

I have received with very real regret your letter of the 8th March submitting to me your resignation from my Executive Council. Under the circumstances I have no alternative but to accept this resignation.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) J.A. Byrne,
Governor.

Lieut. Colonel the Hon.
Lord Francis Scott, D.S.O.
c/o The Elected Members Organisation,
P.O. Box 825, Nairobi.

Elected Members Organization.

P.O. Box 825,
Nairobi, Kenya Colony.

8th March, 1936

To
His Excellency,
Brig.-General Sir J.A. Byrne,
G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.
Government House,
Nairobi.

Your Excellency,

I enclose herewith my letter of resignation from Executive Council. I propose sending a copy of this letter to all European Elected Members for their information, and will also send copies to the Press on Tuesday afternoon for publication next Wednesday.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) Francis Scott.

Elected Members Organization.

P.O. Box 825,
Nairobi, Kenya Colony.

8th March, 1936

To
His Excellency
Brig.-General Sir J.A. Byrne,
G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.
Government House,
Nairobi.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the protest made by myself and Major the Hon. F.W. Cavendish Bentinck at the Meeting of Executive Council held on Friday last, March 6th, and I regret to say that after giving the matter the most careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that I can no longer serve as a Member of Your Excellency's Executive Council.

The protest we made was on a major principle and not on personal grounds.

Under the constitution of this Colony the European unofficial community is represented by eleven Members in Legislative Council, and it has been customary for Your Excellency to nominate two of these Elected Members to Your Excellency's Executive Council. The primary object of

including two Elected Members on Your Excellency's Executive Council is to enable Your Excellency not only to refer to these two Members for advice on matters affecting the Colony as a whole but especially on subjects which specifically affect the community which they represent. It therefore follows that if these two Members are effectively to shoulder this responsibility they must feel assured that they enjoy Your Excellency's confidence to the extent at least of being kept informed of such measures as may from time to time be devised which affect the European unofficial community. This, however, does not unfortunately seem to have been the position during Your Excellency's term of office.

We have no hesitation in saying that had Your Excellency seen fit to take the Unofficial community into your confidence to a reasonable extent during your term of office much of the regrettable friction which has been evident during recent years would have been avoided.

The last glaring instance of the way in which Your Excellency has seen fit to treat the Unofficial community is one which in view of the history of the past two or three years I feel we cannot overlook.

As you must well know the Kenya Defence Force is part of the organisation of this Colony, and in fact part of its constitution and vitally affects the interests of the whole European community. It was originally demanded by us, was organised by us and has been carried on by us in spite of the complete lack of encouragement and assistance from Your Excellency and your Government. When it was first formed it received every encouragement from the then Governor, Sir Edward Grigg, who had a most distinguished record in the Great War, but since then not only has it been starved of money, which was perhaps unavoidable, but it has received no sympathy or encouragement from Your Excellency.

I had no intimation of the proposed change until I read the Secretary of State's Despatch in Friday morning's paper, though one might have expected as a small matter of courtesy I should have been informed by Your Excellency before hand instead of being left to read it in the Press news. In that Despatch the Secretary of State says "I have now come to the conclusion that in the interests of the general security of Kenya the best and indeed the only possible course is to disband the existing Defence Force." On what grounds has the Secretary of State come so definitely to this conclusion; a conclusion which, of course, is a big affront to everyone who has been a Member of the Kenya Defence Force. It can only have been come to as a result of Despatches sent home by Your Excellency, presumably the Despatches mentioned in the Secretary of State's own Despatch. Obviously the question of the Kenya Defence Force has been actively discussed by Your Excellency during the last fifteen months or more, and yet never has my advice or opinion been sought, although I have been all that time the accredited representative of the European community on Your

Excellency's Executive Council, and although I have always been actively interested in the welfare of the Kenya Defence Force from its birth and in fact for some time was its Commandant. To the best of my knowledge no other person intimately connected with the Kenya Defence Force has been asked for his advice and certainly not the late Commandant.

We do not in any way cavil at the fact that Your Excellency may be in disagreement with us on this matter. Your Excellency is Governor of this Colony, and as such the right to take any action which you may consider to be in the interests of the Colony. We only claim to have the right of being informed of Your Excellency's views and of the reasons or grounds on which such views may be based: such information can furthermore always be conveyed to the Elected Members serving on Your Excellency's Executive Council in confidence. We should then know the position and although possibly not in agreement, we should nevertheless in many cases support Your Excellency.

I consider that an affront has been given to the whole European community through myself and my colleague on Your Excellency's Executive Council in that their recognised representatives have been deliberately ignored in a matter vitally affecting the whole community. It seems to us that by your action you have shown that you place no trust or confidence in our judgment and I find that I cannot with any self respect remain a Member of Your Excellency's Executive Council, and so herewith tender my resignation.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) Francis Scott.

Elected Members Organization.

P.O. Box 825,
Nairobi, Kenya Colony.

3rd March, 1936

To
His Excellency
Brig. General Sir J.A. Byrne,
G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.
Government House,
Nairobi.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that Lt. Col. the Hon. Lord Francis Scott has discussed with me the terms and has shown me the text of his letter to Your Excellency dated March 8th.

As Your Excellency knows I am in complete agreement with Lord Francis Scott and concur with every word of his letter, which I

consider states the position so admirably that no reiteration on my part would serve any useful purpose.

I would merely also stress the fact that our protest is not being made on personal grounds but on a question of major principle.

I feel strongly that for some reason Your Excellency has not deemed fit to take the Unofficial community into your confidence to a reasonable extent during Your Excellency's term of office, which fact has led to much of the friction which has occurred as between Government and the Unofficial community during the last few years.

This last instance to which Lord Francis Scott refers in his letter to Your Excellency is so glaring that I consider that we should be betraying the trust which has been vested in us by those who put us into Council were we to accept this position any longer, and as Your Excellency apparently considers that we are not worthy of Your Excellency's confidence I feel that no useful purpose can be served by remaining on Your Excellency's Executive Council and I hereby also beg to tender my resignation.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) F. Cavendish Bentinck.

Colonial Office.

24th April, 1936.

Private and Personal.

My dear Byrne

I had no opportunity of replying to your letter of the 28th March before I went on leave on the 9th. The consequence is that your later letter, which I got this morning, has caught up with me. I will see that it is attended to as quickly as possible.

I feel no doubt that you were right in expecting the resignations to fall flat. I am sorry that Schwartz has thought it necessary to follow ^{the others} suit, but it was inevitable.

The Secretary of State has authorized me to send you a copy of correspondence which he has had with Sir Waldron Smither's, M.P., which I think you will be glad to read.

Yours sincerely

L. D. Howell

PRIVATE & PERSONAL.

12
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
KENYA,
EAST AFRICA.

AIR MAIL.

28th March, 1936.

My dear Bottomley,

This is rather a negative letter as there is really nothing of much interest to tell you.

The resignations have not had the effect anticipated - rather in the nature of a damp squib and as far as I can ascertain the bulk of the people are taking very little interest in the matter. The fiery Lewin however is touring the country making highly improper and unsoldierlike speeches. His action is not quite compatible with his position as A.D.C. to His Majesty.

Answered
I am lying low over filling the Executive Council vacancies - it would be a great mistake to rush matters, especially as Schwartz is now returning and one must wait and see what his line of action will be.

I am sending you a despatch about manning the Coast Defences and I hope shortly to appoint the Committee to consider the tentative proposals outlined in Mr. Thomas' despatch. I am purposely waiting for a week or two to allow the hot air to blow away.

The.....

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 9.)

considering the potential benefits to the Colony, fully justifies a trial.

Exporting as we do to world markets in which subsidies, currency manipulation, and other aids, unavailable in Kenya are enjoyed by our competitors, it is obvious that we must, from sheer necessity, use every means in our power to obtain the greatest volume of business we can in each of our industries. This can only be done by co-operation, and since it is assumed that the public is not exploited, the profits from our only very limited local market should be shared by the whole industry.

It certainly cannot be argued that co-operation has not hitherto been successful in Kenya. In other parts of the world there have been unfortunate incidents and even defalcations, but in Kenya there has been nothing of the kind, indeed the farmers of Kenya have shown singular aptitude for running their own affairs. Nor will it suffice to suggest vaguely that the price of liquid milk will be increased. It must first be proved that milk is not on the cheap side at the moment, and that a slight increase might not be justified if the quality were improved. As one of our correspondents, who hides her identity under the name of Anne X Porter, pointed out last week, it may well be that the distribution in Nairobi is uneconomic, and that much of the outcry by the distributors is an attempt to avoid or delay the reorganization of that side of the business. Her suggestion of a monopoly being granted on condition that prices were not raised is, of course impracticable, though eventually it may happen that the number of distributors will be reduced. Whatever price the public has to pay, they cannot be expected to pay for uneconomic distribution, and the milk producer cannot be expected to contribute to it either. Wasteful

methods will have to go in this business, exactly as they have had to go on farms.

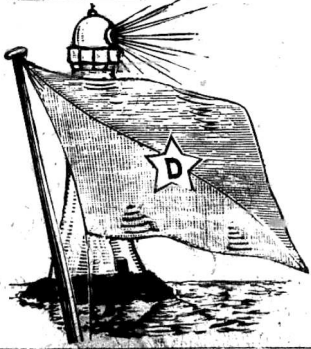
It seems rather a pity that a definite period is not allowed to Government for the consideration of matters of this sort, in much the same way as we are allowed a certain time in which to pay our rents and taxes, after which a penalty is enforceable. It is already a fortnight since the last day for entering an objection, and considering that the Government have known all about the Bill for quite a long while now, and that the temporary rise in butterfat, has not been maintained, we really ought not to have much longer to wait.

There is to be an Agricultural Show at Nakuru in the beginning of June—June 3rd and 4th are the actual days—and there is every prospect that it will be a record one. A record cattle entry is, I believe, already assured, as might be expected owing to the largely increased interest which is being taken in stock generally, and it is hoped that in other lines there will be an even better showing than there was last year, when the Show was held in Nairobi.

There is no doubt at all now that things are getting better generally (I am excepting always the case of the maize farmer) and this is beginning to be slowly apparent even in the country towns, which of course depend entirely on the welfare of the farmer, and you will find that even the most pessimistic people will now grudgingly admit that things are looking up. Sisal and tea, of course, are booming, pyrethrum although not doing as well as it was is holding its own; coffee prospects have improved enormously with the excellent rains; wool is well up, and wheat pays. In fact if it were not for maize, which is really depressed, I think

we could say that economically has turned the corner. The Ita helped us more than a little; in the neighbourhood of five thousand cattle have already been shipped to Smallland and another twelve on the way now, and the pay on stockbreeders is, or will be, above price-making for steers before the business started. But the best sign is the resumption of interest there have been two or three through lately, and there are more enquirers about. All this to the suggestion that we have got best, foot forward to make this standing access. There is no good Agricultural Show is the ment a country like this can be when things are on the up grade to start advertising. Pretty well something he wants to show a he wants to advertise, and her opportunity to do it. The programme of classes is a fairly good and covers pretty well everything or bred in this country, and if got one, write to the Secretary P.O. Box 671 Nairobi or if you call in at this office. Entries close at Nairobi on May 14th.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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The Next Step.

23rd March 1936.

The Editor,
Kenya Weekly News,
Sir.

When I read in your issue of March the 20th a large heading, "THE NEXT STEP—MR. O'SHEA'S POLICY," I hoped that I was going to find some really useful and constructive suggestions. Unfortunately, when I read the letter I was frankly disappointed.

It started in the usual way of Mr O'Shea in crabbing the work of Major Cavendish Bentinck and myself. Then, with a rather poor sneer at the late Lord Dalmeier, it went on to try and make out that Mr O'Shea was the only person with any political sagacity in the Colony, and ended up by suggesting that we must make the Imperial Government give vent to a statement which we have all been trying to get them to make for the last fifteen years. In what way does this get us any further forward or form any new ideas?

To come back to details, he suggests that Major Cavendish Bentinck and I were registering unceasing opposition to the policies which Government were carrying out. I should be very interested to hear what policies he is referring to, as I was not aware that Government had any definite policies. At the same time I have understood Government to say that they wished to do all in their power to assist the hapless farmers of Kenya. I, therefore, take it that that is part of their somewhat indefinite policy and, so far from our giving unceasing opposition to such, the chief object of the formation of the Colonists' Vigilance Committee was to bring all possible pressure to bear to make Government carry out such measures in the most practical way possible. All the work of the Colonists' Vigilance Committee has been directed to this end; consequently the first part of Mr O'Shea's accusation against us falls to the ground.

With regard to the question of my resignation from Executive Council, when I joined the Colonists' Vigilance Committee, I wrote a letter to His Excellency explaining the composition of the Vigilance Committee, and the reason why it came into existence. His Excellency replied thanking me very much for my letter and in no way suggesting that my activities on such a body conflicted with my duties as an Executive Councillor.

When it comes to Major Cavendish Bentinck, I must point out that though he had been a temporary member previously, his appointment on this last occasion to Executive Council took place nearly four months after the formation of the Vigilance Committee and so, obviously, His Excellency did not consider that membership of that Committee invalidated him from serving on his own Executive Council, or he would not have appointed him as he did.

Obviously, Mr O'Shea is still suffering under a personal grievance that the Governor appointed Major Cavendish Bentinck instead of himself to the Expenditure Advisory Committee.

If Mr O'Shea's attendances at this Committee had been on a par with his attendances at the Economic Development Committee, His Excellency's judgment is surely justified, as I think I am correct in saying that at the latter Committee Mr O'Shea only attended the first and last meetings, although he affixed his signature to the Majority Report in opposition to the other Unofficial Members of the Committee.

Mr. O'Shea says that we must adopt new ideas and new methods. Will he kindly explain what he means by this and what are his new ideas?

He goes on to say that the political situation in England has suddenly completely changed, greatly to the advantage of White Settlement in Kenya. I only trust he is correct in his belief, but unfortunately, the latest evidence which we have had from London is that the Secretary of State turned down proposals of the Government of Kenya for encouraging the War Block officers from the Indian Army. This is not very encouraging from the point of view of White Settlement. For all that, all of us must sorely agree with the pledge which Mr O'Shea wishes us to extract from the Imperial Government, and I entirely agree that any efforts which can be made to bring that about will be entirely justified. At the same time, I do not read in his letter of any practical steps which Mr O'Shea proposes for achieving this object. For many years past he has been an advocate of complete opposition to Government and no co-operation. Personally, I am quite convinced that the only possible way in which this country can be helped forward in its true development is by a policy of complete co-operation between all Members of the European community in the Colony, whether official or unofficial; and it seems clear that Mr O'Shea also believes in this as it is implicit in the pledge which he wishes the Imperial Government to give us. I presume, however, that his ideas are that we shall only get this pledge by a policy of complete opposition to Government in every way.

On this point I frankly disagree with him, and so, apparently, does Major Cawthorn, according to his Report.

Although I have resigned from the Governor's Executive Committee, I still intend to serve on other Committees where I believe I can help in furthering the interests of the Colony.

Finally, let me say that it is extremely difficult in this age where sentiment outruns realities, to put forward our case so as to be properly understood by the British Public, but Elected Members are trying their best at the present time to improve our liaison with London for this very purpose and to keep our minds in England better informed as to the friends in England better informed as to the real needs of the Colony. As all true Colonists of Kenya want the same object, cannot we all pull together, eschewing personal ambitions and antagonisms, on as constructive and practical a policy as possible?

Yours etc,
FRANCIS SCOTT.

P.S. With reference to the actual question of the disbandment of the Kenya Defence Force, I should like to draw attention to Hansard's Report of the Colonial Secretary's reply to the Motion in Legislative Council on January 10th last, and ask whether anyone can justify Government's action in view of this Statement. "The Hon. Member for Nairobi North expressed

and some misapprehension that a decision was going to be come to without local opinion being consulted. I have Your Excellency's authority for stating categorically that there is no such intention in the world. What will happen is that when the issues are ready for discussion, and when Government has formulated its views up to the point when they can be submitted for discussion, these matters will be presented to a Committee of local opinion because, of course, Government would not dream of introducing far reaching changes in a military organisation, particularly in connection with a local force such as the K.D.F., without the advice of the local persons most qualified to give it. White, therefore, I am authorised by Your Excellency to say that Government fully accepts the motion in principle, it cannot at this moment appoint a Committee, which is to accept it in detail."

The Editor,
"Kenya Weekly News." 24th March, 1936.
Eldoret.

Sir,
Why waste valuable space refuting a charge that was never made—as you did in last week's issue in referring to my letter? Who charged the Vigilance Committee with being "unconstitutional," meaning illegal? I certainly did not.

Of course neither Lord Francis Scott nor Major Cavendish-Bentinck would think of joining an illegal body. I do not suppose that a single delegate to the Convention that brought the Vigilance Committee into being had the slightest idea of setting up an illegal organisation. Probably the most its left-wing promoters ever hoped for was that it would produce someone with sufficient courage to give someone else a kick in the pants; and Lord Francis took steps to prevent any such naughtiness by joining it and packing it with his "moderate" friends. With what result—that Lord Francis and Major Cavendish-Bentinck forfeited what little confidence the Governor had previously reposed in them—and the Vigilance Committee was effectively reduced to impotence! The most its apologists can now claim for it is that it helped in the task of finding someone to pay somebody else's debts! Even the Legislative Council could have done that.

May I suggest, Mr Editor, that we have had enough of this baby talk about "unconstitutionality" every time someone has the commonsense to suggest that there are other perfectly legal and proper methods of advancing our cause than wasting eleven good men's time, abilities and energies in a dummy Legislative Council. Of course the Vigilance Committee is unconstitutional. So too are the Board of Directors of the Bank of England and the East Africa Women's League. But in no other sense.

Yours etc!
THOS. J. O'SHEA.

The Nakuru Flower Show.

The Editor,
"Kenya Weekly News."

Sir,
I would be glad if you will give me a small space in your paper to make a few suggestions in view of our next local K.H.S. Show which

(Continued on page 29.)

*January
acknowledged
to the Editor
I have answered
improperly
the Council*

CORRESPONDENCE.

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If Mr O'Shea's attendances at this Committee had been on a par with his attendances at the Economic Development Committee, His Excellency's judgment is surely justified, as I think I am correct in saying that the latter Committee Mr O'Shea only attended the first and last meetings, although he affixed his signature to the Majority Report in opposition to the other Unofficial Members of the Committee.

Mr. O'Shea says that we must adopt new ideas and new methods. Will he kindly explain what he means by this and what are his new ideas?

He goes on to say that the political situation in England has suddenly completely changed, greatly to the advantage of White Settlement in Kenya. I only trust he is correct in his belief, but unfortunately, the latest evidence which we have had from London is that the Secretary of State turned down proposals of the Government of Kenya for encouraging the War Block officers from the Indian Army. This is not very encouraging from the point of view of White Settlement. For all that, all of us must surely agree with the pledge which Mr O'Shea wishes us to extract from the Imperial Government, and I entirely agree that any efforts which can be made to bring that about will be entirely justified. At the same time, I do not read in his letter of any practical steps which Mr O'Shea proposes for achieving this object. For many years past he has been an advocate of complete opposition to Government and no co-operation. Personally, I am quite convinced that the only possible way in which this country can be helped forward in its true development is by a policy of complete co-operation between all Members of the European community in the Colony, whether official or unofficial; and it seems clear that Mr O'Shea also believes in this as it is implicit in the pledge which he wishes the Imperial Government to give us. I presume, however, that his ideas are that we shall only get this pledge by a policy of complete opposition to Government in every way.

On this point I frankly disagree with him, and so, apparently, does Major Cawthorn according to his Report.

Although I have resigned from the Governor's Executive Committee, I still intend to serve on other Committees where I believe I can help in furthering the interests of the Colony.

Finally, let me say that it is extremely difficult in this age where sentiment outruns realities, to put forward our case so as to be properly understood by the British Public, but Elected Members are trying their best at the present time to improve our liaison with London for this very purpose and to keep our friends in England better informed as to the real needs of the Colony. As all true Colonists of Kenya want the same object, cannot we all pull together, eschewing personal ambitions and antagonisms, on a constructive and practical a policy as possible?

Yours etc,

FRANCIS SCOTT.

P.S. With reference to the actual question of the disbandment of the Kenya Defence Force, I should like to draw attention to Hansard's Report of the Colonial Secretary's reply to the Motion in Legislative Council on January 10th last, and ask whether anyone can justify Government's action in view of this Statement. The Hon. Member for Nairobi North expressed

some misapprehension that a decision was going to be come to without local opinion being consulted. I have Your Excellency's authority for stating categorically that there is no such intention in the world. What will happen is that when the issues are ready for discussion, and when Government has formulated its views up to the point when they can be submitted for discussion, these matters will be presented to a Committee of local opinion because, of course, Government would not dream of introducing far reaching changes in a military organisation, particularly in connection with a local force such as the K D F, without the advice of the local persons most qualified to give it. While, therefore, I am authorised by Your Excellency to say that Government fully accepts the motion in principle, it cannot at this moment appoint a Committee which is to accept it in detail."

Eldoret,

The Editor,
"Kenya Weekly News," 24th March, 1936.

Sir,

Why waste valuable space refuting a charge that was never made—as you did in last week's issue in referring to my letter? Who charged the Vigilance Committee with being "unconstitutional," meaning illegal? I certainly did not.

Of course neither Lord Francis Scott nor Major Cavendish Bentinck would think of joining an illegal body. I do not suppose that a single delegate to the Convention that brought the Vigilance Committee into being had the slightest idea of setting up an illegal organisation. Probably the most its left-wing promoters ever hoped for was that it would produce someone with sufficient courage to give someone else a kick in the pants; and Lord Francis took steps to prevent any such naughtiness by joining it and packing it with his "moderate" friends. With what result—that Lord Francis and Major Cavendish Bentinck forfeited what little confidence the Governor had previously reposed in them—and the Vigilance Committee was effectively reduced to impotence! The most its apologists can now claim for it is that it helped in the task of finding someone to pay somebody else's debts! Even the Legislative Council could have done that.

May I suggest, Mr Editor, that we had had enough of this baby talk about "unconstitutionalism" every time someone has the common sense to suggest that there are other perfectly legal and proper methods of advancing our cause than wasting eleven good men's time, abilities and energies in a dummy Legislative Council. Of course the Vigilance Committee is unconstitutional. So too are the Board of Directors of the Bank of England and the East Africa Women's League. But in no other sense.

Yours etc

THOS. J. O'SHEA.

The Nakuru Flower Show.

The Editor,

"Kenya Weekly News."

Sir,

I would be glad if you will give me a small space in your paper to make a few suggestions in view of our next local K.H.S. Show which

(Continued on page 29.)

C. O.

Mr. Flood. 1/4 4.36.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

X Sir J. Shuckburgh: 16/4/36

Perm. U.S. of S.

Party U.S. of S.

X Secretary of State. MD 16/4/36

For the Secretary of State's signature.

Downing Street.

17 April, 1936.

Dear Sir Waldron

DRAFT.

SIR WALDRON SMITHERS, M.P.

Thank you for your letter

of the 11th of April. I need hardly say that I had already heard about the resignation of Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavendish-Bentinck from the Kenya Executive Council and I had already seen the newspaper extracts which you sent me. I do not think I can do better than to quote for you an extract from a letter which I recently sent to F.E. Guest. That ran as follows:-

"As you recognise, it is always useful to have the other point of view, though in this case I could wish that it had been more moderately expressed in its criticisms of the Governor of Kenya.

FURTHER ACTION.

Kenya. I can see nothing myself in the Defence Force trouble to call for excited action. As I said in the despatch which was published, I had come to the conclusion that the Defence Force ought to be done away with and replaced by something else, and I made certain suggestions as to how it might best be replaced. I stated that I put forward the proposals as suggestions, and in order to secure that they were considered, I asked the Governor to have the necessary legislation prepared in draft. He informed me that he proposed to appoint a Committee to advise on these changes and I told him that he should also make it clear that before the matter was finally settled it was my intention to consult the War Office also. In case there is any doubt as to the condition of the Defence Force I need only draw attention to General Lewin's Order, where he said that he was unable to say that the Kenya Defence Force as it stands is a credit to the Colony or to the Forces of the Empire of which it should form a part. The object which the Governor has had is just to correct that and to evolve from the Defence Force something which will be a credit to Kenya and an efficient unit in the Empire's Defences.

I do not think I need say more. I greatly regret the attitude which has been taken up by Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavendish-Bentinck, because, as you know, I am anxious to have this trouble and business smoothed out.

That

C. O.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Perm. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

[I have altered the final words. The "responsible authority" in no sense, is the S. of S.; it is he, the S. of S., who is responsible to Parliament.]

FURTHER ACTION.

That is what I said to Captain Guest and I think it really expresses my view fully. It is necessary always to bear in mind that the Government of Kenya is not in Downing Street but in Nairobi, and matters of this kind are best left to the discretion of the Governor who is the King's representative and ~~so such commands~~

my confidence is the responsible authority carrying on the administration on the spot.

J. H. Thomas
 (Signed) J. H. THOMAS

CHICHESTER DIVISION.

Shelleys,
Knockholt,
Kent.

12³⁷

11th April, 1936.

Dear Mr. Thomas.

A friend of mine who lives in Kenya, whom I have known for over 30 years, and for whose character and intelligence I can vouch, has sent me a cutting from the "East African Standard", and has asked me to take what action I can in England to call attention to the unfortunate situation which has arisen.

May I refer you to pages 4 and 5 of the paper which I enclose.

I do not wish unduly to worry you with questions in the House, but I am assured that conditions in Kenya are very unhappy, and I should be grateful if I might have a letter from you explaining what the Government's policy is, so that I can forward it to my friend.

Yours sincerely

Walter Smithers

The Right Honourable
J.H. Thomas, M.P.
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

Answer Mr. S.

C. O.

38090/1/36.

11

Mr. Flood.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley. 8/4

+ Sir J. Shydeburgh. 8/4/36

Parly. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

X Secretary of State. 9/24/36

DOWNING STREET.

11 April, 1936.

SA

Sir,

DRAFT.

KENYA

Na. Conf.

GOVERNOR

38077/1/07.

FURTHER ACTION.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your *conf.* despatch No. 30 of the 19th of March and of your telegram No. 65 of the 11th of March in which you informed me of the resignation from the Executive Council of Kenya of Lord Francis Scott and Major Cavendish Bentinck, and communicated to me a message from the former gentleman.

I need hardly say that I have received this information with regret but I am unable to interfere with a decision which has been reached by the two *members* ~~gentleman~~ in question, and I note that you have accepted their resignations. The question how far

you

C. O.
Mr. Flood.

For the Secretary of State

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Stuckburgh. 8/4/36

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State. 9/4/36

Confidential

*As amended
by*

DRAFT.

J

THE RIGHT HON. CAPTAIN F.E. GUEST,
D.S.O., M.P.

*had been more
moderately expressed in
its criticisms of*

Gen. Fred

your letter of

enclosing you

Major Cavendi

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have the other

in this case

~~were not simp~~

~~a very heavy~~

public offici

the Governor

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trouble to ca

FURTHER ACTION.

G. O.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Perm. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

something which will be a credit
to Kenya and an efficient unit in the
Empire's Defences.

DRAFT.

I do not think I need say more.
greatly
I regret the attitude which has been
taken up by Lord Francis Scott and
Major Cavendish-Bentlack, and ~~will~~
more regret the tone of the latter's
letter to you. Sir Joseph Byrne has
and retains my entire confidence.

because, as you know, I am
anxious to have the Palestine
problem smoothed out. I am
really worried over the whole
affair, because, ^{as} you will be
the first to realize, that
with all the other difficult
problems with which we have to
contend at the present time,
any delay which is likely to be a
source of embarrassment to the
Government must, if at all
possible, be avoided. All my
efforts will be directed towards
the attainment of some

FURTHER ACTION.

Amis etc. & others met.

Your truly,

W. L. G.

TELEPHONE
MAYFAIR 2100.

19, BERKELEY STREET,
W. 1.

Private & Confidential

2nd April 1936 .

The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

RE

8-JUN-1936

C. O. DEQU

Dear J. H.

3A The fact that I have not answered your comprehensive letter on the Kenya Defence Force situation before now, does not mean that I am not very appreciative of the trouble you took in supplying me with the case as it appears to you and your Department.

The reason for my delay in replying is that I was awaiting, from my political friends in Kenya, the story of these incidents as they appeared to them on the spot.

Major Cavendish Bentinck is the second senior elected member and has signed the letters, which I am enclosing, on behalf of both Lord Francis Scott and himself. These two elected members are the two who are on the Government's Executive Council and it is their resignation which has brought matters to a head. I have obtained their permission to send you their statement, which I herewith enclose. I feel that your attitude in this matter generally has been so full of sympathy and understanding that you will be glad to read the

TELEPHONE
MAYFAIR 5100.

10, BERKELEY STREET,

W. I.

Private & Confidential

2nd April 1936 .

The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

RE
8-JUN-1936

C. G. D. P. Y.

Dear T. H.

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RECEIVED
MAY 1936

19, BERKELEY STREET,
W.I.

The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P. (2)

2nd April 1936.

case so that you may be enabled to compare it with the case which has been provided for you by the Kenya Government.

The resignation of General Lewin, the Commandant of the Defence Force, is also referred to and it seems to me that however one may regard the merits of, or the necessity for, the summary disbandment of the Defence Force, the method is quite inexcusable.

I must also add that these incidents follow a chain of others all of which lead up to one point, namely, that the Kenya political situation can be described as nothing else than a smouldering volcano.

I would be very grateful if you would return to me the letter from Cavendish Bentinck and the attached cuttings, after you have had time to peruse them.

Yr Sincerely
Heddie Girth

P.O. Box 825,
Nairobi.

19th March, 1936.

Capt. the Hon. F.E. Guest, D.S.O., M.P.,
19, Berkeley Street,
London, W.1.
England.

My dear Guest,

Many thanks for your telegram to Kinnear
to which I replied in code as under:-

"Full details and documents arriving air mail
stop Suggest supplementary question Why neither
Members Executive or Commandant consulted or informed
whereas matter was discussed by Governor with other
members of the public."

I had to reply in code as we have reached the stage
now when my telegrams might get held up by the Post Office.

I also note that you asked the supplementary
question, I suggested, last night, and the reply given was to
the effect that the Governor was not bound to consult anybody
and the matter of the re-organisation of the Kenya Defence
Force had been common knowledge in the Country for some time.
The first half of the reply is, of course, "passing the buck"
to the local Government, and the second part is not strictly
accurate. There were rumours that the Governor had in mind
some re-organisation, owing to his having discussed the
matter with individuals and not with the accredited
representatives of the Unofficial community, and even on these
occasions the question of the disbandment of the Defence Force
was never raised, which is quite a different story to
re-organisation.

The latest trouble is really only the culmination
of a series of similar instances. Our present Governor,

Sir Joseph Byrnes

Sir Joseph Byrne, is not only tactless in that he never takes the accredited representatives of the Unofficial community into his confidence, but he is not even honest. I can quote you many instances of the incredible manner in which he has thought fit to treat it. The issue, therefore, really is, are we prepared to continue accepting the position of having an alleged representation both in Legislative Council and Executive Council which is in fact worth nothing, or are we going to make a stand in order to show people what the true position is, and to endeavour to ensure that such representation as may be accorded to us is representation in fact, and not merely a camouflage which is used to our detriment.

Ever since Byrne has been in this Country he has been determined to do away with the Defence Force in that he felt that it afforded some kind of Organisation to the settler community which might one day be used against him. There is no foundation whatever for this suggestion, as the more responsible people in Kenya have invariably insisted that the Defence Force had to be kept out of politics. But Byrne has always disliked this Organisation. Incidentally you may remember that the first speech Byrne made after being made Governor, and before he ever came out here, was to the effect that he was going to disregard the politically minded element, which he understood did not represent the Country, and that he counted on the support of a "sound" element of business people, etc., which he felt must exist. I am afraid he has failed to find this "sound" element of which he spoke, apart

from

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from a few sycophantic toadies who like being asked to Government House (a milieu to which they have hitherto been unaccustomed), and a certain number of persons who have their own commercial axes to grind.

The Defence Force was brought into being during Grigg's time. The present Governor has throughout his term of Office been actively lobbying by discussing the Defence Force with various individuals in the hopes of obtaining their support in any effort he might make to abolish it. The type of individuals to whom I refer being Junior Officers of the Defence Force itself, Sub-Editors of Newspapers, etc. Naturally, we knew this was going on, and on several occasions we have asked him point blank to give us his ideas, and pre-supposing that he was not satisfied with the present Defence Force, some indication of the manner in which he envisaged its re-organisation. On every occasion he has either lied to us or pretended that no discussions were taking place. He behaved in the same way to the Commandant of the Defence Force, General A.C. Lewin, who as you know, had a distinguished military career and is an A.D.C. to the King.

Finally,

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Finally, I put up a Motion in Council last January, copy of which I attach hereto. The minute I gave notice of this Motion, I was sent for by the Colonial Secretary and asked to withdraw it as it would put the Governor in an awkward position. I asked why, and was informed that certain secret despatches had been exchanged, and that the Governor was not anxious to disclose their contents in Legislative Council. I asked why we had not been informed of the gist of those despatches as Members of Executive Council, he replied that they were secret. Now, of course, I knew that this was not accurate, as even I was aware of their contents as the whole matter had been discussed by the Governor with all and sundry outside. I told the Colonial Secretary this and I pointed out that a man in the position and with the record of General Lewin should have been given some confidential information and that the same remarks applied to Lord Francis Scott and myself.

After consulting with Francis Scott, I therefore persisted in putting my Motion in order that the public might have some inkling of what was going on. Government's reply was very unsatisfactory, but they did undertake to appoint a Committee of the type we suggested, with probably even wider terms of reference. In view of this, having made my gesture, I withdrew the Motion as it would not have been accepted by Government, and we of course are in a Minority.

The Secretary of State's despatch dated the 5th of February was I understand received by Government on Wednesday the 4th March and was shown to the Governor on that evening. I was of course in Nairobi at the time, and so was Francis Scott. The Governor well knew that

*this

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this was a question which the whole country felt very strongly. Yet on the morning of Thursday the 5th of March although Francis Scott attended some Committee Meeting at Government House, of which Committee the Governor was Chairman, yet nothing was said either to him or to me about the receipt of this despatch, although on the previous Saturday the Governor had sent for an Officer of the Defence Force, Dunstan Adams, and discussed the whole position with him in detail prior to the receipt of the despatch and had asked whether he, Dunstan Adams, would be prepared to serve on such a Committee, the Governor knowing that Dunstan Adams held strong views advocating voluntary service. Dunstan Adams, is a perfectly honest person and told me of that interview.

On the Thursday afternoon, after the Committee Meeting at Government House, the Governor sent for Mr. Kinnear, who is the Editor of the "East African Standard", gave him the Secretary of State's despatch, and discussed the personnel of the proposed Committee with Kinnear in detail and at length. Kinnear, of course, after the interview rang me up and told me what had taken place. Meanwhile, neither Francis Scott nor I, both Members of his Executive Council, were given any information or consulted in any way.

That evening I told Francis Scott what was going to appear in the paper the next morning, and he frankly did not believe it.

The fact that the Governor may not be in agreement with us is neither here nor there. On many occasions I would respect him for disagreeing with us, but surely it is his job then to send for us, to tell us he is not in agreement with us, and inform us what action

he proposes to take. Quite honestly, if he did that, I can assure you that as often as not we would wholeheartedly support him; but when he lies to one, does everything he can to undermine the accredited representatives of the unofficial community, lobbies like an Irish village politician, the position at long last becomes impossible.

He is, of course, filling a position which the Almighty never intended him to fill. He is weak, stupid and dishonest, and until we get rid of him, I can see no hope of any better or improved relationship between the official and the unofficial communities.

Again, I would stress that this last episode was merely a further instance. I will only quote two others. When he decided to impose an Income Tax, he informed nobody, not even his Executive Council, whose first intimation of the arrival in this country of an Income Tax Expert was the receipt of some letter written on paper headed "Kenya Income Tax Department". Meanwhile we were committed to pay for this man for, I think, three years, and when we got rid of him, we had to produce his three years' salary, passages etc.

As a second instance, the other day, allegations were made by the Representative for Native Interests, Archdeacon Burns, to the effect that considerable abuses existed in the collection of Native Hut and Poll Tax. As these allegations had been made on no less than two occasions, we suggested that it would be advisable to hold an enquiry in order to see whether they were founded on fact or on fiction. We suggested that a suitable Committee of Enquiry would be a Judge of the High Court as Chairman, together with Mr. Rupert Hemsted, a retired Provincial Commissioner, and a Member of the Carter Commission, and

either

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either Conway Harvey, who has had 38 years experience of these things, and is an Elected Member, or Dr. Arthur, a Missionary. Some discussion arose as to the addition to this Committee of the Chief Native Commissioner and Canon Burns who made the allegations. We were against the inclusion of these two, as they were in a sense interested parties. Nevertheless they were included.

Whilst these matters were being discussed, Mr. Pandya, an Indian, suddenly demanded Indian representation on this Committee, and the Governor, who had been trying to catch his eye during this discussion, immediately agreed. Now, we feel very strongly on the subject of Indians being accorded any official acknowledgment as being included in direct administration of the native population, so immediately after this Meeting I went up and somewhat forcefully informed the Colonial Secretary of the dangers of including an Indian in a Committee of this kind. He replied that the Governor had found himself in a difficult position in that Mr. Pandya, who had just returned from a propaganda tour in India during which he had interviewed both the Viceroy and Mr. Ghandi, had been to see the Governor, and had demanded inclusion on this Committee, to which the Governor had agreed. The Governor, of course, should have informed Francis Scott or me about this private interview; we would then have discussed the position with him, and have endeavoured to find a way out. His failure to do so merely resulted in an "impasse". To cut a long story short, we again saw the Governor, and in the course of that interview, the Governor said he had no idea that Mr. Pandya was going to make this demand, or that any question of principle was involved. I replied that

he must have known that a very big question of principle was involved, and that with all due respect to him he did know that Pandya was going to make this demand as he had interviewed him privately previous to the Meeting and had made this arrangement. The Governor denied this. I then challenged him again, and Wade, the Colonial Secretary, who was present, had to interpolate by saying "Yes Sir, I think if you remember, you did see Mr. Pandya in the passage prior to that Meeting." Now, I ask you, how can one deal with a man of this type?

I am also adding hereto a copy of a letter received this morning from Schwartz who is at the moment in London, from which it would appear that the British Government is going to let us down in regard to the recommendations of the Carter Report and the Order in Council demarcating and securing the White Highlands. If they do, there is going to be a row, and a racial one which may have far reaching consequences even from their insular point of view.

I am afraid that this letter is written very hurriedly so as to catch the air mail. I admit that this incident over the Defence Force has occurred at an inopportune time. That however is not our fault. The position will I think be made clearer were you to spare the time to read the attached documents which are as under:-

1. My notice of Motion re. Defence Force.
2. General Lewin's letter of resignation.
3. General Lewin's farewell order.
4. Questions of Francis Scott and self.
5. The Secretary of State's Despatch.
6. Francis Scott's and my letters of resignation from Executive Council.
(We felt the main letter had better be

written by Francis Scott, as he is a permanent Member of Executive Council and is reputed to be moderate, whereas I am supposed to be politically more violent.)

7. The Governor's acceptance of our resignation
8. Francis Scott's cable to Thomas.
9. Letter from Colonial Secretary to Elected
10. My reply thereto on their behalf. (This is important as it stated our point of

Incidentally, I might add that under the Force Ordinance as it exists today, every able bodied man is registered, trained up to a certain age, can be called up directly under the Governor's authority and can be called up directly under the Governor's authority should a state of emergency be declared. The Organisation on the whole works quite well, but like everything else has latterly been starved of money.

Again very many thanks indeed for taking an interest in our little troubles. I can assure you on behalf of all Elected Members that we deeply appreciate it.

Yours sincerely,
F. Cavendish Bentinck.

Naturally I want to keep the names of Dunstan Adams Kinnear out of this.

PRIVATE & PERSONAL.

AIR MAIL.

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8
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
KENYA,

EAST AFRICA.
12th March, 1936.

My dear Bottomley,

445
In continuation of my Air Mail letters of the 8th March, Francis Scott and Cavendish Bentinck published their letters of resignation (copies already sent to you) in yesterday's East African Standard, together with my acceptance with regret of these resignations. They also published their telegram to Mr. Thomas.

It is too early yet to say what the reactions will be but I believe the issue is not one which will arouse any great feeling or interest among up country people. In Nairobi itself -- apart from the Officials who are very angry -- the leading unofficials who have as yet expressed any opinion are disgusted with the tone of Francis Scott's letter and they take great exception to the words "on behalf of the Unofficial community" in the telegram to the Secretary of State.

I enclose herewith copies of the replies I have received to the letter of the 9th March addressed to the Secretary of the Elected Members Organisation (copy of which accompanied my first letter of the 8th March).

I.....

2.

I imagine they found some difficulty in framing a suitable answer to our request.

You see, they leave me free to appoint whom I please to the Committee but in the meantime we have practically prepared all the necessary legislation so that there will be no delay when the unofficial members are appointed.

As regards the terms of Cavendish Bentinck's letter of the 11th March I would urge that we now get this question of the Defence Force settled once and for all, if necessary by direct orders from the Secretary of State. Local politics should not be allowed to influence a matter of such importance, especially during this time of International unrest. To introduce the Territorial proposals outlined in the despatch will in no way dislocate matters for the obligation on all able-bodied men to be called up if and when required will remain exactly as under the Defence Force Act. The Territorial units in Nairobi and Mombasa can be formed forthwith, for the willing keen men will still come forward leaving out the unwilling conscripts, many of whom were really a hindrance.

Above....

3.

Above all, whatever Force is formed must never be under the direct Command of the Governor with an unofficial as Commandant; this has been the main cause of all the trouble we have had in the past. Apart from this petulant and unnecessary flare up I have never seen the people both native and non-native so quiet. The good rains have completely altered the outlook and the granting of further funds for the Land Bank has created an excellent impression.

I propose at present to hold my hand and await events before I recommend fresh appointments to Executive Council. I'm sure I shall be approached on the subject before long.

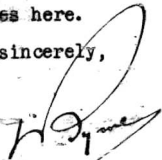
In this connection I should greatly value guidance as to whether I would be justified in refusing in future to appoint anyone who has taken the oath of Secrecy to the Vigilance Committee. It seems to me to be absolutely wrong that members of my "cabinet" should be bound by two oaths.

Fitzgerald, the Postmaster General, leaves tomorrow and will be in London early in April. I would be very grateful if Mr. Thomas could see him as he will thus be able....

4.

able to get first hand and most reliable information
as to our ever varying activities here.

Yours sincerely,

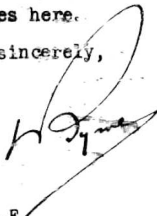
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W.C. Bottomley', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name and extends upwards and to the left, overlapping the 'Yours sincerely,' text.

Sir W.C. Bottomley, K.C.M.G., C.B., O.B.E.
The Colonial Office.
London. S.W.1.

4.

able to get first hand and most reliable information
as to our ever varying activities here.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. D. Jones', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Sir W.C. Bottomley, K.C.M.G., C.B., O.B.E.
The Colonial Office.
London. S.W.1.

COPY.

54

ELECTED MEMBERS ORGANIZATION.

P.O. Box 825,
NAIROBI,
Kenya Colony.

Reference No. E/G.1.

9th March, 1935.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
The Secretariat,
NAIROBI.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter no. A.MIL.85/2/VI/138 of to-day's date.

You will appreciate that it is difficult to get into touch with Elected Members at very short notice. I shall therefore proceed to Nakuru to-morrow morning and see Lord Francis Scott, and in the meanwhile I am communicating with all Elected members and I trust I shall be in a position to inform you whether Elected members have any recommendations to make as to the personnel of the proposed Committee within the next two or three days.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Sgd/- F. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK.
Secretary.

COPY.

54

ELECTED MEMBERS ORGANIZATION.

P.O. Box 826,
NAIROBI,
Kenya Colony.

Reference No. E/G.1.

9th March, 1936.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
The Secretariat,
NAIROBI.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter no. A.MIL.86/2/VI/138 of to-day's date.

You will appreciate that it is difficult to get into touch with Elected Members at very short notice. I shall therefore proceed to Nakuru to-morrow morning and see Lord Francis Scott, and in the meanwhile I am communicating with all Elected members and I trust I shall be in a position to inform you whether elected members have any recommendations to make as to the personnel of the proposed Committee within the next two or three days.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Sgd/- F. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK.
Secretary.

COPY.

ELECTED MEMBERS ORGANIZATION.

P.O. Box 825,
NAIROBI,
Kenya Colony.

Reference No. E/G.1.

11th March, 1935.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
The Secretariat,
NAIROBI.

Sir,

Further to my letter E/G.1 dated 9th March in reply to your letter A.MIL.86/2/VI/138 of the same date, I have the honour to submit the following.

1. The European Elected members note that the suggested composition of the proposed Committee is in no way similar to that visualised in the Motion put forward on their behalf in Legislative Council. Furthermore the proposed Committee is to discuss suggestions made by the Secretary of State based on conclusions he has reached as a result presumably of information conveyed to him in Despatches from His Excellency the Governor, and Elected Members have no knowledge of the reasons or grounds put forward by His Excellency on which the Secretary of State has based his views. Elected members regard the statement extracted from Government in Legislative Council on the 10th January last as uninformative and unconvincing.

2. Elected Members are unable to accept without question the premise that necessarily "in the interests of the general security of Kenya, the best, and the only possible course, is to disband the existing Defence Force". They would point out that the question of internal security and of the security of women and children in a Colony such as ours is one of vital importance, and must also be taken into the most careful consideration and provided for in the preparation of any general scheme for defence against possible external aggression.

3. In view of the serious trend in international relationship in Europe during the last few days, Elected members consider that it can hardly be necessary for them to assure His Excellency that should a state of emergency arise they will do all in their power to assist in effectively mobilising the European man power of the Colony. They consider, however, that taking into account the European position, the present can hardly be considered the opportune moment to scrap an organisation which is actually in being, which is under His Excellency's direct control, and under which the mobilisation under direct Government orders of every able bodied man can be automatically effected at any moment by His Excellency, should a state of emergency be declared, and to substitute therefore a new and nebulous organisation, which has only been vaguely considered and with regard to which the people of the Country have no knowledge. The additional provision of Artillery Defences for the Port of Mombasa could easily be effected forthwith by a simple addition to the existing Organisation.

4.....

4. As the proposed Committee is apparently to sit under terms of reference which take for granted the immediate disbandment of the Kenya Defence Force without any previous reference having been made to the representatives of the Unofficial community, Elected Members regret that at this late stage they do not consider that any useful purpose will be served were they to make recommendations as to the personnel of the proposed Committee. They feel that under these exceptional circumstances the personnel had better be left entirely to His Excellency's discretion.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sgd/- F. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK,

Secretary.

REC

8-01

C.O.

The Secretariat,
Nairobi.
11th March, 1936

My dear Flood,

I thank you very much for your letter of the 2nd and for kindly looking into the question asked by my friend Mr. Partridge as to whether there need be any hesitation about his returning to Rome.

You will by this time have learnt that we have got another first class row out here and that Francis Scott and Cavendish-Bentinck have resigned from Executive Council. To me, their reasons for this remarkable action are not very apparent. They say they have not been consulted as to any reorganisation of the Kenya Defence Force and that they ought to have been. Apparently, they regard it as some sort of insult if you people at home try to help us by making suggestions for our consideration. As this seems to be their attitude, I do not quite know why they did not resign immediately after I made a speech on the subject at the last session of Legislative Council. Among other things, what I said was:

"The hon. member for Nairobi North expressed some misapprehension that a decision was going to be come to without local opinion being consulted. I have Your Excellency's authority for stating categorically that there is no such intention in the world. What will happen is that when the issues are ready for discussion, and when Government has formulated its views up to the point when they can be submitted for discussion, these matters will be presented to a committee of local opinion because, of course, Government would not dream of introducing far-reaching changes in a military organisation, particularly in connection with a local force such as the K.D.F., without the advice of the local persons most qualified to give it."

At the time, that seemed to satisfy most people, and Cavendish-Bentinck withdrew his motion for the immediate appointment of a committee, although he did say in his reply:

"I should have thought possibly that before referring anything home it might have been as well to have at any rate informed some of those who have a great deal of experience in these matters in this country of the lines on which inquiries at home were being proceeded with."

Now everything has happened exactly as I said it would. You people at home have made us some concrete suggestions which we, i.e. this Government,

think are very good ones, and His Excellency announces his intention of immediately appointing a local committee to consider them and for the life of me, I cannot understand what all the fuss is about. If the local committee considered the suggestions and did not like them, all they had to do was to say so and give their reasons. Now Francis Scott has definitely refused to sit on a committee or have anything to do with it, and it remains to be seen how far he will carry the European population with him. If they all agree to support him, then I suppose we shall get no volunteers for the territorial units, and the settlers may refuse to register or have anything whatever to do with the security forces or whatever it is to be called.

The situation is not made any easier by the fact that a few days ago General Lewin blew up and resigned his appointment as Commandant, apparently because he thought His Excellency had been consulting some other fellows about something or other which might concern some of the people under his command. As a matter of fact, I believe he got hold of the wrong end of the stick altogether. I was not present at the consultation to which I think he referred, and I believe it was a perfectly innocent inquiry from some of the firms connected with electricity as to how many of their fellows could work a switch-board for the Mombasa guns -- something of that sort. I do not believe it was even remotely connected with the Kenya Defence Force. Anyhow, there it is. Poor H.E. comes in for a lot of unmerited odium and abuse and things are not at all easy for any of us. What the next step will be I do not know.

I expect there will be another row over the White Highlands Order in Council when it comes out, for I do not suppose that that Order can give our white highlanders all that they are demanding.

You will be receiving our bond scheme despatch, I expect, before very long. For my sins I have been chairman of the Committee dealing with the matter and, of course, Grogan is one of the members. I have argued with him without stopping for about a month as to the form that our memorandum to the Governor is to take, and we have not finished the argument yet. The scheme as presented by Schwartz has been modified considerably, e.g. Government credit is to be used to cover only 80% of the debts instead of 100%, the rate of interest has been put up by 1% to cover a good deal of possible default, and it is not to apply to debts to the Land Bank. It is only a scheme to meet the immediate situation and not to be in any way permanent. If it were adopted, I do not suppose it would cost Government much in the long run, but I cannot suppose that it is consistent with the kind of finance ordinarily supposed to be proper for British colonies. However, I expect it will come to you with a request that it may be seriously

considered. Grogan says he could defend it in any place against any attacks as a sound and simple scheme. He may possibly be right.

Yours sincerely,

Adwards

P.S. The inauguration of the wireless telephone was a triumphant success - every syllable of every speech perfectly plain.

Adwards

J.E.W. Flood, Esq., C.M.G.,

Downing Street, London, S.W.1 .

RECEIVED
21 MAR 1936
G. O. REOY

Golfers Club,
Whitehall Court,
London, W. 1.
March 20th 1936.

To the
Right Honourable J. W. Thomas, *M.P.*
Sir,

As formerly Chairman of the Committee in Kenya which opposed the introduction of conscription in 1927, allow me to express my warm appreciation of your recent action in abolishing conscription in the colony. Owing to the opposition the thoroughgoing conscription Bill proposed by the Delamere Party in 1927 was withdrawn, and replaced by a much milder Defence Force Ordinance, which, however, was based on compulsory military service. Up to the time when I left the colony in 1931, no attempt had been made to use the general provisions of the Ordinance, but later I noticed in the newspapers that several young men had been fined for refusing to serve.

I am no pacifist, but I oppose strongly the selective conscription of white employers for a military force intended for use against unarmed native tribal workers. It was well understood in the colony that this was the object for which the force was formed.

I would strongly urge, as I did in evidence to the Royal Commission in 1917, that trusteeship for the natives cannot properly be delegated to local settlers dependent for their livelihood on cheap native labour, despite their warm persuasion that they can run the natives far better than the effete officials of Whitehall. In the sense that they can secure a higher return on the natives as trustee ^{stock} investments this is probably true. But the modern conception of trusteeship is that it is for men and women as human beings, and not merely as remunerative ^{stock} investments, and the trusteeship for

native lands is in the first place for native homes, and not merely for the development and exploitation of imperial estates.

Under present methods of administration in Kenya any advice tendered by Elected Members touching native affairs must necessarily be tainted with self-interest, and should be discounted accordingly. No further advances in the direction of self-government should be allowed unless provision is made for separate administration of the Native territories, otherwise trusteeship will become a mockery.

The abolition of conscription may afflict the Elected Members ~~may afflict~~ with one of their recurrent attacks of tropical-high-altitude hysteria; such attacks last about three months. I trust that the Colonial Office will not be moved by local clamour,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. A. A. A.

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The abolition of conscription may afflict the Elected Members ~~may afflict~~ with one of their recurrent attacks of tropical-high-altitude hysteria; such attacks last about three months. I trust that the Colonial Office will not be moved by local clamour.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Mable

PERSONAL & PRIVATE.

AIR MAIL.

5-4
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

KENYA.

EAST AFRICA.

REC'D

SEC.

C. O. REC'D

8th March, 1938.

My dear Bottomley,

4
I sent you an air mail letter this morning outlining the anticipated trouble over the Defence Force.

Now just before the mail closes I have received the enclosed. I knew that Francis Scott & Co were out to stage a first class row and this is the first move. I shall consult my senior officials tomorrow and as far as I can see the only thing to do at present is to accept with regret their resignations.

Francis Scott and everyone else knew that the reorganisation of the Defence Forces was engaging the attention of the Secretary of State. I maintain that I am not at liberty to convey the contents of Secret interim despatches to him unless and until I am authorised to do so.

As regards the complaint that I do not take these gentlemen into my confidence I would point out that as Members of Executive Council they were fully

consulted....

PERSONAL & PRIVATE.

AIR MAIL.

5^{bl}
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
KENYA,
EAST AFRICA.

REC'D

870.

C. G. REC'D

8th March, 1936.

My dear Bottemley,

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As regards the complaint that I do not take these gentlemen into my confidence I would point out that as Members of Executive Council they were fully consulted....

2.

consulted on every important matter affecting this Colony. As regards consultation outside Executive Council they have not made things easier for me by being leaders of a Secret Society openly hostile to the Government.

No time for any more as the mail is closing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. D. ...', written in a cursive style.

Sir W.C. Bottomley. K.C.M.G., C.B., O.B.E.
The Colonial Office.
London. S.W.1.

COPY.

ELECTED MEMBERS ORGANISATION.

P.O. BOX 825.
Nairobi.
8th March, 1936.

To
His Excellency
Brig. General Sir J.A. Byrne,
G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.
Government House.
Nairobi.

Your Excellency,

I enclose herewith my letter of resignation from Executive Council. I propose sending a copy of this letter to all European Elected Members for their information, and will also send copies to the Press on Tuesday afternoon for publication next Wednesday.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(SGD). FRANCIS SCOTT.

COPY.

ELECTED MEMBERS ORGANISATION.

P.O1 BOX 825.
Nairobi.
8th March, 1926.

To
His Excellency
Brig. General Sir J.A. Byrne,
G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.
Government House.
Nairobi.

Your Excellency,

I enclose herewith my letter of resignation from Executive Council. I propose sending a copy of this letter to all European Elected Members for their information, and will also send copies to the Press on Tuesday afternoon for publication next Wednesday.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(SGD). FRANCIS SCOTT.

COPY.

63

ELECTED MEMBERS - ORGANISATION.

P.O. Box 828.
Nairobi.
8th March, 1966.

To
His Excellency Brig. General Sir J.A. Byrne.
G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.
Government House.
Nairobi.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that Lt. Col. the Hon. Lord Francis Scott discussed with me the terms and has shown me the text of his letter to Your Excellency dated March 8th.

As Your Excellency knows I am in complete agreement with Lord Francis Scott and concur with every word of his letter, which I consider states the position so admirably that no reiteration on my part would serve any useful purpose.

I would merely also stress the fact that our protest is not being made on personal grounds but on a question of major principle.

I feel strongly that for some reason Your Excellency has not deemed fit to take the Unofficial community into your confidence to a reasonable extent during Your Excellency's term of Office, which fact has led to much friction which has occurred as between Government and the Unofficial community during the last few years.

This last instance to which Lord Francis Scott refers in his letter to Your Excellency is so glaring that I consider that we should be betraying the trust which has been vested in us by those who put us into Council were we to accept this position any longer, and as Your Excellency apparently considers that we are not worthy of Your Excellency's confidence I feel that no useful purpose can be served by remaining on Your Excellency's Executive Council and I hereby also beg to tender my resignation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(SGD) F. CAVENDISH BENTINCK.

COPY

ELECTED MEMBERS ORGANISATION.

P.O. box 825.
Nairobi.
8th March, 1936.

To
His Excellency
Brig-General Sir J.A. Byrne, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.
Government House,
Nairobi.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the protest made by myself and Major the Hon. F.W. Cavendish-Bentinck at the meeting of Executive Council held on Friday last, March 6th, and I regret to say that after giving the matter the most careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that I can no longer serve as a Member of Your Excellency's Executive Council.

The protest we made was on a major principle and not on personal grounds.

Under the Constitution of this Colony the European unofficial community is represented by eleven Members in Legislative Council, and it has been customary for Your Excellency to nominate two of these Elected Members to Your Excellency's Executive Council. The primary object of including two Elected Members on Your Excellency's Executive Council is to enable Your Excellency not only to refer to these two Members for advice on matters affecting the Colony as a whole but especially on subjects which specifically affect the community which they represent. It therefore follows that if these two Members are effectively to shoulder their responsibility they must feel assured that they enjoy Your Excellency's confidence to the extent at least of being kept informed of such measures as may from time to time be devised which affect the European unofficial community. This, however, does not unfortunately seem to have been the position during Your Excellency's term of office.

We have no hesitation in saying that had Your Excellency seen fit to take the Unofficial community into your confidence to a reasonable extent during your term of office much of the regrettable friction which has been evident during recent years between Government and the Unofficial community would have been avoided.

The last glaring instance of the way in which Your Excellency has seen fit to treat the Unofficial community is one which in view of the history of the past two or three years I feel we cannot overlook.

As you must well know the Kenya Defence Force is part of the organisation of this Colony, and in fact part of its constitution and vitally affects the interests of the whole European community. It was originally demanded by us, was organised by us and has been carried on by us in spite of the complete lack of encouragement and assistance from Your Excellency and your Government. When it was first formed it received every encouragement from the then Governor, Sir Edward Grigg, who had a most distinguished record in the Great War, but since then not only has it been starved of money, which was perhaps unavoidable, but it has received no sympathy or encouragement from Your Excellency.

I had....

I had no intimation of the proposed change until I read the Secretary of State's Despatch in Friday morning's paper, though one might have expected as a small matter of courtesy I should have been informed by Your Excellency before hand instead of being left to read it in the Press news. In that despatch the Secretary of State says "I have now come to the conclusion that in the interests of the general security of Kenya the best and indeed the only feasible course is to disband the existing Defence Force." On what grounds has the Secretary of State come so definitely to this conclusion; a conclusion which, of course, is a big affront to every one who has been a member of the Kenya Defence Force. It can only have been come to as a result of Despatches sent home by Your Excellency, presumably the Despatches mentioned in the Secretary of State's own Despatch. Obviously the question of the Kenya Defence Force has been actively discussed by Your Excellency during the last fifteen months or more, and yet never has my opinion or advice been sought, although I have been all that time the accredited representative of the European community on Your Excellency's Executive Council, and though I have always been actively interested in the welfare of the Kenya Defence Force from its birth and in fact for some time was its Commandant. To the best of my knowledge no other person intimately connected with the Kenya Defence Force has been asked for his advice and certainly not the late Commandant.

We do not in any way cavil at the fact that Your Excellency may be in disagreement with us on this matter. Your Excellency is Governor of this Colony, and as such has the right to take any action which you may consider to be in the interests of the colony. We only claim to have the right of being informed of Your Excellency's views and of the reasons or grounds on which such views may be based: such information can furthermore always be conveyed to the Elected Members serving on Your Excellency's Executive Council in confidence. We should then know the position and although possibly not in agreement, we should nevertheless in many cases support Your Excellency.

I consider that an affront has been given to the whole European community through myself and my colleague on Your Excellency's Executive Council in that their recognised representatives have been deliberately ignored in a matter vitally affecting the whole community.

It seems to me that by your action you have shown that you place no trust or confidence in our judgment and I find that I cannot with any self respect remain a Member of Your Excellency's Executive Council, and so herewith tender my resignation.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your obedient servant,

(SFD) FREDERICK SOUTH.

PERSONAL & PRIVATE.

AIR MAIL.

4/ 66
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

KENYA,

EAST AFRICA.

8th March 1936.

My dear Bottomley,

I have much to tell you in this letter about the Defence Force. On receipt of the Secretary of State's secret cable (No.44) of the 4th March I arranged that the Secret Despatch of the 5th February should be issued to the Press and published on the morning of the 6th March. I further arranged that on the same day Executive Council should consider the personnel, etc., of the Committee (we had promised) to examine the tentative proposals contained in the despatch. Prompt action was necessary having in view the fact that the guns at Mombasa would shortly be installed.

I enclose cuttings from the East African Standard of the 6th March containing the Communique and the Leading Article.

From the information I have since received from many sources Mr. Thomas's suggestions are considered eminently sound for nearly everybody has realised that the present Defence Force is of no military value.....

value and that it must go. But, as I indeed anticipated, the Vigilance Committee crowd, presided over by Francis Scott and Cavendish Bentinck, etc., are not going to allow this Force - which they regard as being practically (through the Commandant) under their control and influence -- to be disbanded without a bitter fight. This fight will now be staged but provided we are firm -- and I'm sure Mr. Thomas will support me -- it will not last long because all the sensible people in the country are behind us.

I now turn to what took place in Executive Council on Friday morning. After dealing peacefully with all the items on the agenda I referred to the Secretary of State's despatch. I pointed out that having regard to the international situation it was most desirable that we should get our Defence measures put right with the least possible delay and that above all we should, in doing so, avoid politics and personalities.

I pointed out that the Secretary of State's proposals were tentative and that I desired to appoint the promised Committee at once. I said that I hoped that Lord Francis would consent to sit. This resulted in a
most.....

most disgraceful exhibition of uncontrolled temper. He blurted out that neither he nor his colleagues would sit on any Committee: that this (the Defence Force) was their force, given to them by the late Governor, and that they looked upon it as part of the Constitution. I kept my temper and tried to reason with him but it was hopeless as he is like a spoilt child when these fits come upon him.

The effect ~~of~~ this unpatriotic exhibition had on the official members is shown in the copy of a communication I received from Wade.

I have had a consultation today with my senior advisers and I have directed that a letter (copy enclosed) be sent to the Secretary of the Elected Members Organisation. If they refuse to recommend names for the Committee I shall just have to go ahead with an official Committee and submit to the Secretary of State our recommendations as to the legislation necessary to bring in the proposed measure.

Yours sincerely,

Sir W.C. BOTTOMLEY, K.C.M.G.,
C.B., O.B.E.
The Colonial Office,
London, S.W.1.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1936.

THE DEFENCE OF KENYA

A New Scheme

It has been common knowledge for some time that the authorities in Kenya and in London have been considering the reorganisation of the internal defence organisations of the Colony. Defence has assumed an importance to-day that it has never had in history. Even prior to the war, in which this country played its part out of its own very limited resources in manpower and material in the early stages, less detailed consideration was given to defence problems than is the case everywhere in the world now. Reluctantly, and because in the light of recent experience the British Government has come to the conclusion that a strong Empire is the best guarantee for the peace of the world, the exercise of the authority of the League of Nations and the beneficial influence of the principle of collective security, Great Britain has taken in hand the reorganisation and modernisation of her defence services. The public, understanding fully the nature of the need and the objective, have made no demur, on the contrary the National Government was sent

back largely to implement the pledge of armed security which is now being carried out. With the world as it is to-day, no part of the Empire, unhappily, can neglect its military needs and the present conflict in Abyssinia has given a warning to watchful people of the importance of preparedness and reminded them of the great changes brought about in conditions governing defence by the development of aircraft and modern weapons. For some years Kenya has established and maintained the principle that its European population must be ready to provide for the security of their homes and of the welfare of subject races committed to the charge of the British people. The Kenya Defence Force has had a chequered career—in some ways as General Lewin's correspondence asserts to-day an unhappy experience—but despite every difficulty and discouragement it has established the fact that there lies upon the shoulders of the Europeans of Kenya a clear responsibility which the majority of them have willingly accepted. In his Farewell Order General Lewin spoke highly of their quality and none who know the settlers of this country will doubt the sincerity and truth of his tribute. But the Kenya De-

fence Force has had some defects and the main one has been that, despite its loyalty, it has not been properly a part of the framework of the forces of the Crown and one of the principal changes proposed in the scheme published to-day, which disbands the K.D.F., is to bring the "security force" in future directly under the command of the Governor as Commander in Chief and of his principal executive officers. That is not a change to which anyone who regarded the K.D.F. in its true light as a force for the defence of Kenya, will object. It has the added advantage of vesting the new unit with full authority, and it binds Government quite definitely to its encouragement. The proposal is that there should be formed a "Kenya Regiment." That in itself will secure for the unit a close identity with the Colony which not only explains its nature but will surely be a source of real pride. Associated with it will be an artillery and searchlight unit for the defence of Mombasa, in co-operation with the Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Behind these will be a Kenya Regiment Reserve and it is in connexion with this latter body that the compulsory principle will be retained and firmly applied. The regiment and the special units at Mombasa will be on the lines of a Territorial Force and will be voluntary, except that service in the ranks of these forces will have to be taken seriously. At the present time there are several units of the Kenya Defence Force throughout the country. It should be made clear, we think, that if sufficient volunteers come forward in any district a Territorial unit will be formed there so that people living in scattered communities in the settled areas may feel as secure under the new scheme as they do under the existing K.D.F. organisation. But the Territorial Force is essentially voluntary in its character and if the scheme goes through as it is now framed its success will be a proper test of Kenya's loyalty and sense of responsibility for her own defence. We have heard a great deal against the principle of conscription; now let us see the critics hurry forward to offer their services as volunteers in the Colony's own Regiment. If they do not and if there are not enough volunteers, the *East African Standard* will not hesitate to call upon the Government of this country to introduce conscription again and to bring pressure to bear on all young men to discharge the obligations of their British inheritance. So far as the Reserve is concerned the weakness in the scheme is that the masses, though compulsorily registered and given their place in a general scheme, will have no training and it is a matter of serious consideration whether every able-bodied man up to a certain age limit should not be called upon to go through a course

of rifle shooting as the practical contribution to mass effectiveness. Even with a plan and a registered mob of untrained civilians, a handicap on military authorities, they would be less burdensome and far more useful if each of them could handle a rifle. That is a point which Government might consider in connexion with the encouragement of Rifle Clubs, which have survived largely to date on the enthusiasm of their members. The essential thing as the Secretary of State has said is to provide means for the utilisation of the full British man-power of the country in case of emergency. If the scheme offers this security and in that way is an improvement on the present, or if by a combination of both or some modification or adjustment it can be still further improved, then the wise thing to do is to put all prejudices aside and join together in working out something that will stand the test. It is in that spirit we commend it to the consideration of the country, with this proviso that if the voluntary principle does not produce enough men for training to meet the real needs, Government must not hesitate to seek further powers. If we are going to do a job, let us do it thoroughly this time; that applies to Government as well as to the public. As promised in the Legislative Council a local Com-

mittee is to be invited to advise the Secretary of State, through the Government, on the scheme in its local setting. If their proposals are wise and sound the country will expect this Government to back them because, after all, what the despatch provides is only the theory and we are all concerned ultimately in the practice. Publication of the details of the scheme will also probably convince those people in Mombasa who charged Government with having had them open to attack for the sake of two guns and a few searchlights. Although Mombasa is now a "defended" port, nobody need think that in its undefended state it was free from attack. After all it is an important harbour where military stores are handled and housed, it is an oil depot, a watering place for ships and a calling port for units of the Navy. These things would have been enough excuse for most garrisons.

DEFENCE OF KENYA: NEW PLAN

**K.D.F. to be Disbanded
and Replaced**

**BY TERRITORIAL UNIT, ARTILLERY
AND RESERVE**

Secretary of State's Scheme

**COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF ALL
ABLE-BODIED MEN**

The Kenya Defence Force is to be disbanded and replaced by a new defence organisation which will "enable the potential European man power of Kenya to be utilised in the best possible way."

The proposal is a Kenya Territorial Regiment and a battery of artillery, the latter for the defence of Mombasa.

The O.C. Troops will be in command and professional staff will be provided.

In addition, to meet the need for security there will be compulsory registration of all men who are physically fit and who will form the Kenya Regiment Reserve.

This announcement is made in a despatch from the Secretary of State published yesterday and a local Committee will be appointed to discuss it. It will also be submitted to the Army Council in England.

Committee to Examine Proposals

The Secretary of State's despatch is prefaced by the following note:—

In permitting the following despatch to be published, the Secretary of State desires it to be made clear that he intends to seek the advice of the Army Council before the matter is finally settled. A Committee will be appointed forthwith to submit recommendations generally on the Secretary of State's suggestions, and particularly on the legislation required to give effect to the changes if such be ultimately approved.

The Despatch

Downing Street,
5th February, 1936.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your secret despatch of the 15th of September on the subject of the Kenya Defence Force. I note that in regard to the question of the stores, you are taking separate action, and I presume that you will report separately if necessary on this point. In this despatch I propose to deal with the organisation of the Defence Force generally.

2. As I informed you in my telegram of the 4th of February, I have now come to the conclusion that, in the interests of the general security of Kenya, the best, and indeed the only possible, course is to disband the existing Defence Force and replace it by some more suitable military organisation which will enable the potential European man power of Kenya to be utilized in the best possible way.

Territorial Regiment

3. In existing circumstances my opinion is that the most suitable organisation will be that of a Territorial Force regiment comprising an infantry unit (or units) and a battery of artillery for employment in manning the gun defence of Mombasa. The establishment of the infantry unit should be as for a Battalion of the King's African Rifles, with necessary modification as regards non-combatants. The Officer Commanding the Northern Brigade of the King's African Rifles should be appointed to command all local forces in Kenya and Uganda, and his present style should be altered by adding the words "and Officer Commanding Local Forces, Kenya and Uganda." In the Ordinance constituting the regiment provision should be made to vest the command in the Officer Com-

manding Local Forces, Kenya and Uganda.

The Staff

4. As regards the staff, the necessary staff should be supplied from the Northern Brigade, King's African Rifles, the necessary additions to establishment of that force being made to provide for this. The Staff Officer should be appointed to the staff of the Officer Commanding Northern Brigade with the title of Staff Officer, Local Forces. In order to make the change as smoothly as possible, I suggest that it would be advisable in the first place to appoint as Staff Officer, Local Forces, an officer now serving in one of the Battalions in the Northern Brigade. This will secure that the first incumbent of that post will have a knowledge of the problem, the people, and the country, and it would be preferable to appointing an officer from this country who had no such local experience. The officer selected for the appointment of Staff Officer Local Forces would be replaced by an officer sent from England to complete establishment.

5. I suggest that a suitable designation for the proposed Force would be "The Kenya Regiment (Territorial Force)." The actual strength of the units can be regulated according to possibilities, and, in the first instance, I suggest that the establishment should aim at one infantry battalion and one battery of artillery.

Ready for Emergency

6. In your secret despatch of the 12th of December, 1934, you stated that you were in agreement with the suggestion that a "security force" should be organized and maintained. I think however, that the title would be somewhat misleading, though I agree that, in the circumstances of Kenya, everyone who is physically fit should be compulsorily registered for military action in an emergency. Since all householder will continue to be placed under liability for military service it will probably be better to make them members of some definite military organisation, which would automatically place them under military or Government orders when a state of emergency is declared. This would have the further advantage of ensuring that, when called upon, they come under military control and discipline in the emergency, with the responsibility for carrying out orders given.

(Continued in next column.)

to them. To secure this end the best course would appear to be to establish for the Kenya Regiment (Territorial Force) a Reserve, and that all house-holders not being members of the Regiment or of the King's African Rifles Reserve of Officers should be required to enrol in it. The Reserve could be divided into classes according to age and obligation for military training. It would give each man a definite military status if he is called upon for service, and would probably prove the most satisfactory course in the end.

7. I make these suggestions as points for your consideration. They had the support of Brigadier Norman when he last considered the matter, and you will no doubt, have discussed the whole question with him. In any event, the first thing to do would appear to be to prepare legislation to give effect to the changes, and I request that you will submit it to me in draft as you propose.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd.) J. H. THOMAS.

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COPY.

Your Excellency,

I am very happy to forward the attached entirely spontaneous Minute from the C.N.C. and to say how cordially I endorse the feeling expressed therein.

It is, I hope, unnecessary to add that Y.E. commands the unswerving loyalty and devotion of all Y.E.'s official advisers.

(ITD) A. de. V. W.
6/3/36.

Your Excellency,

Since writing the above I have been approached verbally by other official members of Executive Council who desire me to convey to Y.E. their sense of disgust at the behaviour of Lord Francis Scott in Council together with a respectful assurance of their united support for Y.E. at all times.

(ITD) A. de. V. W.
7/3/36.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Hon. C.S.

I shall be glad if you will convey to His Excellency my sympathy with him and my utter disgust at the outbreak in Executive Council this morning.

Probably no representative of His Majesty has ever been addressed as was done by Lord Francis and, if it is not presumptuous, I should like to express my admiration at the way H.E. kept his temper and thus commanded the position.

Should Lord Francis Scott resign, as I hope he will, it will relieve His Excellency from the somewhat anomalous position of having as one of his advisers a person who is a leader of a Committee admittedly anti-Government and sworn to secrecy as to action to be taken against Government.

(SGD) H.R. MONTGOMERY.
6/3/36.

COPY.

The Secretariat.
Nairobi.
9th March 1936.

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to refer you to the statement made by me as Colonial Secretary in the Legislative Council on the 10th January. Briefly this statement was to the effect that the future of the Kenya Defence Force and its relationship to other forces was engaging the attention of the Imperial Government and when tentative proposals were formulated these would be placed before a representative Committee.

As soon as the authority of the Secretary of State to announce his tentative proposals was received the despatch containing them was published and on the same day (Friday the 6th March) the question of appointing the Committee promised was raised in Executive Council. It was considered that the Committee should be a small one under the Chairmanship of the Officer Commanding the Troops with whom it was desired to associate the Solicitor General, a representative of the country community and a representative of either Nairobi or Mombasa. It would also be an advantage to add a representative of the Kenya Rifle Association.

In view of the fact that the 6" guns have now arrived and will shortly be installed the necessity for prompt action is obvious.

I am to ask whether the Elected Members have any recommendation to make as to the personnel of the Committee and I would be grateful if I could be furnished with an early reply.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(SGD) A. de V. WADE.

The Secretary,
The Elected Members Organisation.
NAIROBI.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

3A

C. O.

285901

Mr. Flood. 13. 3.36.

Major Cole

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

X Sir C. Bottomley. 13.3

Sir J. Spackburgh
Permt. U.S. of S. 13/3/36

Parly. U.S. of S

Secretary of State.

For the Secretary of State's signature.

Downing Street.

13th March, 1936.

DRAFT.

The Rt. Hon. J.E.
CAPTAIN GUEST, M.P.

Dear ^{Sir} ~~Guest~~.....

I promised to write to you about the Kenya Defence Force. The position is this:- For some time past the Governor has not been happy with the Defence Force as it stood, thinking that its organization was defective and that it did not provide a satisfactory means of making use of the white man power in Kenya. In addition to this it appeared that the arms belonging to the Force were not being properly looked after and that there was considerable risk of their getting into the hands of natives. The Governor was inclined to the view that the Defence Force

FURTHER ACTION.

should be placed under the Officer Commanding the Northern Brigade, King's African Rifles, but my predecessors thought that to do this would involve new legislation in Kenya and that it would be better to consider what ought to be done and avoid making two bites of the cherry. After prolonged discussion with the Governor when on leave and with the Inspector-General and other officers, the conclusion was reached that as a military unit and part of Kenya's defences the Force was not of any practical value. The Governor agreed that the soundest policy was to replace the Force by something else and after considering the whole thing I came to the same conclusion. I have no intention, nor has the Governor, of proceeding hastily. It will be necessary to take the unofficial European population into consultation and it will be necessary to draft very carefully the legislation which will be required. In January this year the Government announced in Council in Kenya that they proposed to appoint a

local

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Permi. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

local committee to examine any suggestions which might come from here and to put up proposals with the object of ensuring the fullest possible measure of local co-operation

The proposal which at present holds the field is that there should be a "territorial" battalion which it is hoped can be found by voluntary recruitment. This will enable the people who are keen on military training to play their part, and if an emergency arises the battalion will supply a nucleus of trained personnel and, if necessary, could be employed as a fighting unit at once, which would be very difficult with the present Defence Force. In addition to this battalion there will have to be a coast defence unit to man the heavy guns which are now being put

in

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C. O. REGY

76
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Telegram from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary
of State for the Colonies.

Dated 9th March, 1936.
(D.L.T.)

Received 6.9.a.m.
11th March, 1936.

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No 65.

Following message for Secretary of State for the
Colonies begins:

To the Right Honourable J.H. Thomas Secretary of
State for the Colonies On behalf of European community
must register strongest possible protest against
arbitrary disbandment of Kenya Defence Force without any
reference to representatives of unofficial community who
were not even informed prior to publication in press.
This further instance of disregard of unofficial opinion
has caused such justifiable resentment that Bentinck and
I have resigned Executive Council Francis Scott Ende.
Governor.